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Heritage Consultants

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Clifton Gardens Reserve

Interpretation Plan and Design Study

Report prepared for Mosman Municipal Council

November 2005

Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Clifton Gardens—Interpretation Plan and Design Study, undertaken by Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system. Godden Mackay Logan operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000.

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Cover Illustration: Sam Hood *Young Men Frolicking on the beach at Clifton Gardens 1934* (photographic glass negative), State Library of New South Wales, Sydney.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Godden Mackay Logan has been commissioned by Mosman Municipal Council to prepare an Interpretation Plan and Design Study for Clifton Gardens Reserve. In 2003 a Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan was prepared for the Reserve by Pittendrigh Shinkfield Bruce Pty Ltd. The 2003 report recommended, amongst many other things, that:

- the cultural history of the Reserve should be conserved and interpreted;
- the heritage significance of the Reserve should be measured against the criteria for listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR); and
- a range of reconstruction and upgrade works should be undertaken.

The Clifton Gardens Reserve Interpretation Plan and Design Study is informed by community feedback received by Mosman Municipal Council following the public exhibition of the draft Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan in February 2003.

This report provides interpretation policies and concepts for the Reserve, as well as texts and recommended images. It assesses the heritage significance of the Reserve using the criteria for the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) and finds it to be of local significance (Appendix A). This report also provides design concepts for site signage.

1.2 Site Identification

Clifton Gardens Reserve is a flat area of land situated between two steep ridges, located to the north and west, and bounded on the southeastern side by the foreshore of Chowder Bay in Sydney Harbour. Most of the northern boundary is shared with Sydney Harbour National Park administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation through the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A small section of the most northeasterly border adjacent to the foreshore is owned by the Commonwealth Government and administered by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. The southwestern boundary is shared with the Chowder Head section of Sydney Harbour National Park near the foreshore, privately owned residences and Morella Road (see Figure 1.1).

The site comprises 17 parcels of land, variously owned by Mosman Municipal Council and the Department of Planning. The Department of Planning portion is held in Crown Reserve Trust and managed by Mosman Municipal Council. The bathing enclosure and wharf are owned by NSW Waterways and leased to Mosman Municipal Council (see Figure 1.2).

1.3 Limitations

Access to some areas of Clifton Gardens Reserve was limited owing to plant overgrowth.

1.4 Author Identification and Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by a specialist team from Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, including Sheridan Burke, Director; Geoff Ashley, Senior Associate; Rebecca Hawcroft, Heritage Consultant; Mark Dunn, Historian; and Cath Renwick, Heritage Consultant.

We would also like to acknowledge Joe Vertel and Linda Kelly of Mosman Council Planning Team for their help in progressing this project.

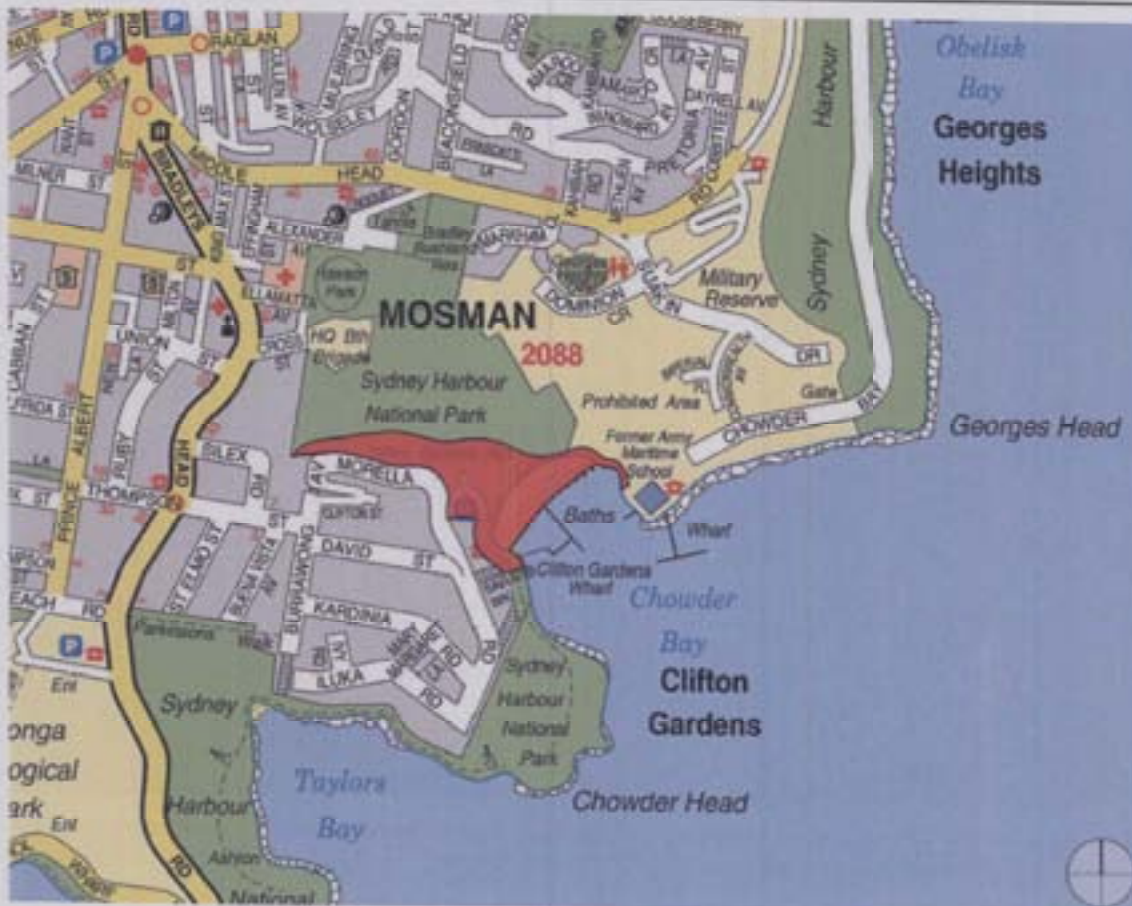


Figure 1.1 Map of the Clifton Gardens Reserve area, highlighted in red.



Figure 1.2 Mosman Council's aerial photograph of the study area. Clifton Gardens Reserve is the grassy area in the centre and small areas of treed ridge on the boundaries.

2.0 Why Interpret?

2.1 Interpretation as a Conservation Process

Interpretation is an essential part of the heritage conservation process. The active interpretation of heritage places is as important as authentic restoration and regular maintenance and supports community recognition and understanding of a site's values and significance.

In recent years, the importance of integrating interpretation in the conservation process has been highlighted. This trend is confirmed in the recent revisions to *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999*, which states 'interpretation means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place'. Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (eg maintenance, restoration, reconstruction), the use of and activities at the place, and the use of introduced explanatory material' (Article 11.1.7).

Article 24.1 of the Burra Charter goes on to state 'Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.' The Charter notes that 'for many places, associations will be linked to use'.

Article 25 continues 'the cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment and be culturally appropriate'.

In 2004, the NSW Heritage Office prepared guidelines to encourage good practice in the interpretation of heritage items across New South Wales. This Interpretation Plan and Design Study has been prepared in accordance with the standards set by the Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines, as published by the Heritage Council of NSW, August 2005.

2.2 Interpretation Principles

The approach taken in the development of the Clifton Gardens Reserve Interpretation Plan and Design Study encompasses the following key principles:

- involve people with skills and experience in heritage interpretation;
- ensure all research is thorough and that accumulated materials are publicly available at the completion of the project;
- focus interpretation on the sites' significance and values, and from them develop themes and stories;
- investigate current users and potential audiences;
- ensure that recommendations and devices have potential to engage and stimulate public interest;

-
- ensure that recommendations and devices are accessible, reversible and compatible with the character of Clifton Gardens Reserve;
 - ensure that recommendations and devices are integrated with conservation and planning; and
 - ensure that recommendations and devices are sustainable into the future by providing for maintenance, evaluation and review.

2.3 Approach

In developing the brief for this project, staff of Mosman Municipal Council took into account analysis and concepts outlined in the 2003 Management Framework for Clifton Gardens Reserve, Mosman by Pittendrigh Shinkfield Bruce Pty Ltd. This Interpretation Plan and Design Study is designed to be undertaken in stages as and when resources are available. This report recommends that, whenever capital works are planned for Clifton Gardens Reserve, interpretation of the place's values is a core objective and that interpretive media are integrated into the planning and design processes from the outset.

The project methodology is shown in the flowchart at Figure 2.1.

Interpretation Plan and Design Study for Clifton Gardens Reserve: Methodology (as submitted with GML project proposal)
Context, Concepts, Content and Implementation Scheme
Introduction—<i>Why interpret?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Context: location, place ownership, management, cultural protocols. • Interpretation Policy: Place, Visitor, Client.
Statement of Significance—<i>What's the Story?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of historic development of the place and its context. • Identification of key themes. • Interpretation concepts arising from significance of the place.
Audience—<i>Who needs to know?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing and target visitation. • Identify associated people and audiences. • Education curricula linkages.
Inventory of Place—<i>What's there already?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-visit information. • Brief review of buildings, public domain and cultural landscape. • Associated collections, movable and archaeological heritage. • Existing interpretation. • Brief review of existing wayfinding, security and arrival/exit.
Interpretation Plan and Design Report—<i>What's proposed?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of identified interpretation opportunities and constraints. • Draft policy statement. • Key themes/messages. • Interpretation resources, methods (active and passive) locations and devices. • Stakeholder/client review.
Developing the Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key texts and illustrations (including copyright). • Staged summary of activities, installation tasks, timing and responsibilities. • Concept design and fabrication overview. • Maintenance plan. • Interpretation evaluation and review process.

Figure 2.1 Interpretation Plan Methodology for Clifton Gardens Reserve, Godden Mackay Logan 2004.



3.0 Historical Development of Clifton Gardens Reserve

3.1 The Story of Clifton Gardens

3.1.1 Original Inhabitants

Two days after the First Fleet had anchored in Sydney Cove, Captain Hunter, using a longboat, began a detailed survey of the harbour. He began by going to what was to become Mosman.¹ At a landing place probably known to the inhabitants as Koree, and later as Chowder Bay, Lieutenant William Bradley records:

We observed some women at the place the men came down from, they would not come near us, but peep'd from behind the rocks and trees; when the Boats put off, the Men began dancing and laughing and when we were far enough off to bring the place the Women were at in sight, they held their arms extended over their heads, got on their legs and danced till we were some distance, then followed us upon the rocks as far as the boats went along that shore.²

Gavin Souter, in his history of Mosman, argues that these people probably referred to themselves as the Borogegel, a sub-group of what researchers describe as the Kuringgai language group.³

Numerous sites and artefacts of Aboriginal occupation remain in Mosman, primarily in the form of shell middens on undeveloped sections of foreshores, with some rock engravings and art sites in the parks and reserves. The documentary evidence from the nineteenth century suggests that engravings and art sites were once scattered throughout the area, but that most of these disappeared during the suburban expansion of the early twentieth century.

The documentary evidence of the Aboriginals of the North Shore, limited though it is, is far more extensive than the surviving physical evidence. Although limited physical evidence remains of Aboriginal people at Clifton Gardens Reserve, historical records indicated that Aboriginal people hunted and camped here. Some sites have been identified, but it is also possible that further physical evidence of the Aboriginal use of the site has not yet been identified.

3.1.2 Early European Settlers

The name Chowder Bay appears to be a result of the presence of North American whalers early in the nineteenth century, who apparently made the New England dish clam chowder from the rock oysters that were plentiful on the shores of the bay.

The fertility of the valley at the head of Chowder Bay was recognised in 1828 by Thomas Graham.⁴ Graham was a free settler employed as assistant to the Government Botanist, Mr Fraser. He applied for a grant in 1828 at Chowder Bay to establish himself as a market gardener and nurseryman (Figure 3.1).⁵ Rob Sturrock, in his *Pictorial History of Mosman*, states that in 1829 the government *Gazette* reported that 'a fishery on a small scale has been established at Chowder Bay'.⁶ It would appear that Graham established this fishery. However, Graham's 15 acres did not include the beach, which was reserved for access to other land in the valley.

Graham, with the help of his wife Elizabeth and his employer Mr Fraser, built a house and planted more than four acres, with such trees as apricot, peach, plum, olive, pear, apple, cherry, nectarine, greengage and mulberry.⁷ The property was sold in June 1832 for £326 after Graham had become insolvent. A newspaper advertisement for the property described it as a 'choice garden house and cellars ... 3/4 of an hours drive of Sydney or four miles by water carriage'.⁸ Gavin Souter surmises that, if the advertisement was correct, there must have been a vehicular track from Chowder Bay to a track that already existed between Blues Point and Shell Cove.

The 15 acres were purchased by Captain Edmund Cliffe, who was the former owner of a whaler called the *Lady Wellington*.⁹ Cliffe owned 41 acres south of Graham's land. He was granted this land in 1835, thus increasing his total holding to 56 acres. Sturrock states that Cliffe built himself a home on his land, which he named Cliffton. However, Souter claims that Samuel Ashmore, who purchased the 56 acre property for £500 after the death of Cliffe in 1837, named the property Cliffton. It seems more probable that it was Cliffe who named the property Cliffton.

After Ashmore's death in 1858, a Sydney merchant named Joseph Westbrook purchased Cliffton for £1160 and built what one newspaper described as a 'handsome and commodious three-storey building of brick and stone with cedar fittings and having an observatory and bakery overlooking the bay'.¹⁰ It is presumed that this house was later demolished, and it is not known where it was located.

The previously residential and rural character of the site changed in 1863 when CF Hemmington, proprietor of a pleasure ground named Fairy Bower at Manly, opened a similar enterprise named Fairyland on part of Cliffton. The harbourside site allowed water access and, on specific 'excursion days', this establishment was served by the steamer *Nautilus*.¹¹ However, it wasn't until the 1870s that the area became a popular recreational retreat.

3.1.3 The Clifton Hotel and the Era of Pleasure Gardens

Picnic grounds and pleasure resorts had existed on the harbour for some time, particularly on the eastern shores. These harbourside picnic grounds, refreshment rooms and dance halls were a feature of Sydney's life until the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 and for some time after.

Owing to their remoteness, the harbour areas of the North Shore had tended to remain undeveloped for industrial activity. By the mid-nineteenth century, the major waterfront activity in Mosman was public recreation in harbourside reserves. The North Shore's pleasure gardens and dance halls were popular excursion destinations, usually visited as part of the weekend excursion trips run by the harbour ferry companies.

The first area on the North Shore established as a recreation pleasure garden was Cremorne Gardens, which opened for business under that name in 1856. It was situated on 22 acres of land owned by prominent North Shore developer, James Milson, at Robertsons Point. Cremorne Gardens set a commercial example (which others followed) at several sites around the coast of Mosman. Pleasure grounds including Ashton Park, set on 142 acres at Bradleys Head, and Rosherville

Reserve at Chinaman's Beach followed. These establishments were serviced by regular ferry services to the North Shore, which had begun during the 1860s.

In 1871, Duncan Butters built the Clifton Hotel and was granted a publican's licence in the following year. This was one of the first two licensed hotels in Mosman, the other being the Athol Gardens Hotel, located at Ashton Park, licensed at the same time as the Clifton Hotel.¹² The establishment of a hotel was to increase the popularity of Clifton Gardens as a recreation area greatly.

In 1879, David Thomson purchased the Clifton Gardens Estate. Thompson enlarged the Clifton Arms Hotel and renamed it the Marine Hotel. He also built a wharf and a dancing pavilion.¹³ By the 1870s, the 'pleasure industry' on the North Shore had become quite large and extended to Hunters Bay, Shell Cove, Athol Bay and Pearl Bay. Pleasure gardens established at these places attracted Sydneysiders willing to enjoy the walking paths, food, music, dancing and regular 'masked balls' offered by these establishments.¹⁴ Swimming was not a feature of the site's use until the early 1900s, when laws banning bathing were progressively rescinded.¹⁵

Clifton Gardens attracted complaints from many residents who were concerned about rowdy behaviour by some of the visitors to the area. As a result, in 1882, Thompson's licence was amended to disallow music and dancing. The police at the time commented that Thompson had been fined several times for resisting them on the premises and that dancing was the cause of drunkenness, immorality and disorderly conduct at Chowder Bay.¹⁶

Thompson regained dancing privileges and adopted a 'no toughs' policy. In 1885, he reopened the hotel as a three-storey, forty-room establishment named the Chowder Bay Marine Hotel, providing accommodation 'unsurpassed in the Southern Hemisphere'.¹⁷ The dancing pavilion built by Thompson was advertised as the largest and best-ventilated of its kind in the Australian colonies. Thompson also imported an English bathing machine that lowered a shark-proof frame into the water around the swimmer, and opened a skating rink in 1888. There were also four circular running tracks at Clifton that appear to have been popular well into the 1930s for post-picnic races.¹⁸

Thompson died in 1900, and in 1906 the hotel and pleasure grounds were purchased by Sydney Ferries Limited. The company built a large circular swimming enclosure and a boat shed, which were noted to be 'the finest in the state'.¹⁹ They also added a tramway from the wharf to the hotel for the conveyance of supplies. The hotel was, at this time, renamed the Clifton Gardens Hotel.

Prior to this purchase of the pleasure gardens, the area of Cliffe's original estate had begun to be subdivided for sale for residential development. The gradual subdivision and sale of the area surrounding the pleasure gardens continued during the early years of the twentieth century (see Figure 3.3).

In 1905, Sydney Ferries Ltd published a small booklet outlining the recreational facilities offered by the company. It included the following about Clifton Gardens:

... one of the finest dancing pavilions in the Southern Hemisphere. Summer houses and small tables in shady nooks have been erected capable of accommodating 1,000 people. Swings, merry-go-rounds, and shooting galleries are also available to the public ... frontage to Chowder Bay of nearly 1,000 feet, with a fine sandy beach, where children can play in safety ... Steamers ply daily from No. 1 jetty, Circular Quay, ... and special steamers for Sunday-school picnics and other excursions can be chartered from Sydney Ferries, Limited, at any time.²⁰

On 1 November 1906, the *Daily Telegraph* reported that:

the baths now being erected for the Sydney Ferries Limited at Clifton Gardens ... are quite different from those built previously in the metropolis. One of the principal improvements to be noted is the marine promenade which encircles the enclosure ... Racing platforms, marble chutes and a driving tower of 50 feet high are among the accessories of the enclosure ... Platforms for bathers will be on a lower level, while the dressing rooms will be situated in the pavilion at the back of the oval and above them will an extensive refreshment gallery and grandstand.²¹

A 1913 ferry guide proclaimed that Clifton Gardens was the most extensive pleasure ground in Australia.²² During the period, Clifton Gardens was a frequent setting for union picnics and groups such as Water Board employees, butchers and bank employees who held their annual picnics at the gardens (Figure 3.4).²³

Harbourside resorts flourished in the interwar years. During the 1920s, a 'rough element' was causing trouble at Clifton Gardens. This complaint seems to have been a recurring theme throughout the history of the gardens. It was also during the 1920s that the Sewerage Pumping Station was constructed at the gardens to serve the northern sewer, providing adequate civil infrastructure to the Mosman district.

Until the mid-1930s many workers, together with their families, congregated at Clifton Gardens for annual picnic days sponsored either by their employers or their unions. The Water Board, Australian Paper Mills and the Storeman and Packers Union were amongst the hosting organisations.²⁴

Other rivals for the recreation time of Sydneysiders were Manly, the largest of the harbourside resorts, and the ocean beaches of Coogee and Bondi. Tram networks allowed large numbers of visitors easy access these ocean resorts. By the mid-1930s, 14 million passengers travelled to Bondi each year.²⁵ As the decade progressed, the increasing popularity of cars and the growing patronage of surf beaches began to undermine the harbourside resorts. For the North Shore harbour resorts, the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge had further reduced visitation by reducing ferry travel generally. Advertisements for Clifton Gardens in the mid-1930s had changed drastically and stressed features including 'ample garage accommodation' and 'twelve minutes by car from the City via Harbour Bridge' (Figure 3.5).²⁶

3.1.4 Wartime Use of the Site

Chowder Bay and the headlands that define it, to the northeast of Clifton Gardens have been of strategic defence importance throughout the history of Sydney. Defence activity began in 1803 when a gun battery was installed on Georges Head. The Georges Head Chowder Bay Military

Establishments were progressively added to throughout the nineteenth century, specifically for submarine mining activities. The Chowder Bay site is recognised as having National significance for the contribution it makes to the history of the Australian Military and the defence of Port Jackson.

During World War II, Clifton was also utilised for defence activities with the Australian Water Transport Group headquarters located there (Figure 3.6). This included the anchorage in the bay of the army's extensive fleet of 40ft vessels. Images from the period record training activities, accommodation of troops in tents pitched on the wide flat areas of Clifton Gardens and troops boarding ships from the long jetty.

3.1.5 Move Towards Unified Harbour Foreshore Lands

In 1953, Mosman Council and the Cumberland County Council jointly purchased the flat land behind Clifton Gardens beach from an owner who had been planning residential development there.²⁷ In 1956, the wooden pavilion was destroyed by fire, and by the mid-1960s, all the resort structures at the gardens had been demolished except the shark-proof swimming pool. In 1965, the hotel closed and was demolished the following year. The owner had plans for the residential development of the site, but Council refused permission and the land was purchased for inclusion into the Clifton Gardens Reserve.

In the 1970s, Clifton Reserve was re-landscaped and virtually all the remaining pleasure-ground era structures were demolished. Mosman Council built a new jetty, re-located the bathing enclosure and repaired the sea wall.²⁸ While only the cultural plantings from the pleasure ground period remain on the site, the primary use remains recreational, representing the continuation of over a century of sustained use.

Since 1970, the Sydney Harbour National Park has been forming through the amalgamation of various parcels of government land along the southern side of Mosman, as well as other parts of the harbour foreshore and islands. Since World War II, Mosman Council has also acquired foreshore land for the creation of public recreation areas. The current evolution of the adjacent Chowder Bay Georges Heights site from Defence use to public ownership will facilitate the long-term viability and importance of Clifton Gardens within the North Shore's harbour foreshore lands.

3.2 Statement of Significance

This Statement of Significance is taken from the State Heritage Inventory form for Clifton Gardens Reserve submitted to Council in February 2005 (Appendix A).

Clifton Gardens Reserve is historically significant as one of a number of 'pleasure grounds' located on Sydney Harbour dating from the late nineteenth century. Harbourside pleasure grounds are important places in the development of Sydney and represent many historical trends, including the establishment of ferry transport, the settlement and development of the harbour foreshore areas and

the changing focus from passive leisure to public bathing. The subsequent decline of the harbour resorts represents the growing popularity of tram travel, car transport and surf beaches.

Clifton Gardens is noteworthy as one the largest recreational reserves on Sydney Harbour, and as a site that has remained a recreational reserve since 1860 and continues to be used as such today. Elements on the site dating from the period of use as a 'pleasure ground' include the cultural plantings, roads, steps and paths, and potential archaeological remains. However, the significance of the site is reduced by the lack of above-ground physical building and other remains related to its 'pleasure ground' period of use.

As a designed landscape, the site has the distinctive aesthetic characteristics of nineteenth-century harbourside recreational spaces, including a sand beach, cultural plantings, a jetty and netted bathing area. While the site does have landmark and scenic qualities, these have been impacted by the demolition of the once-extensive facilities associated with the 'pleasure ground' and the replacement with the existing facilities dating from the late 1960s.

As a large recreation space active since the 1860s, the site can be seen to have strong or special associations with the people of Sydney generally, and particularly to the people of Mosman. The leisure activities undertaken on the site, including bathing in the harbour, can be seen to have significance beyond amenity and to be significant to the community's sense of place.

The site has identified archaeological potential in relation to remains of the early pleasure ground structures and the hotel once on this site that may contribute to an understanding of the use of this class of place in the nineteenth century. Two Aboriginal archaeological sites have been identified on the site. There is also potential that the site may contain deposits at depths relating to pre-European environment and topography, Aboriginal occupation and early environmental modifications of the land by the first European occupants of the area.

Clifton Gardens Reserve is representative of a class of site that provided formalised leisure pursuits in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Sydney, and is part of a group of sites which collectively illustrate attitudes to leisure, the growing focus on bathing as a recreational and sporting pursuit and the beginnings of the creation of Australia's 'beach culture'.



Figure 3.1 1880s plan of the North Shore, showing Chowder Bay (detail). (Source: Mitchell Library)

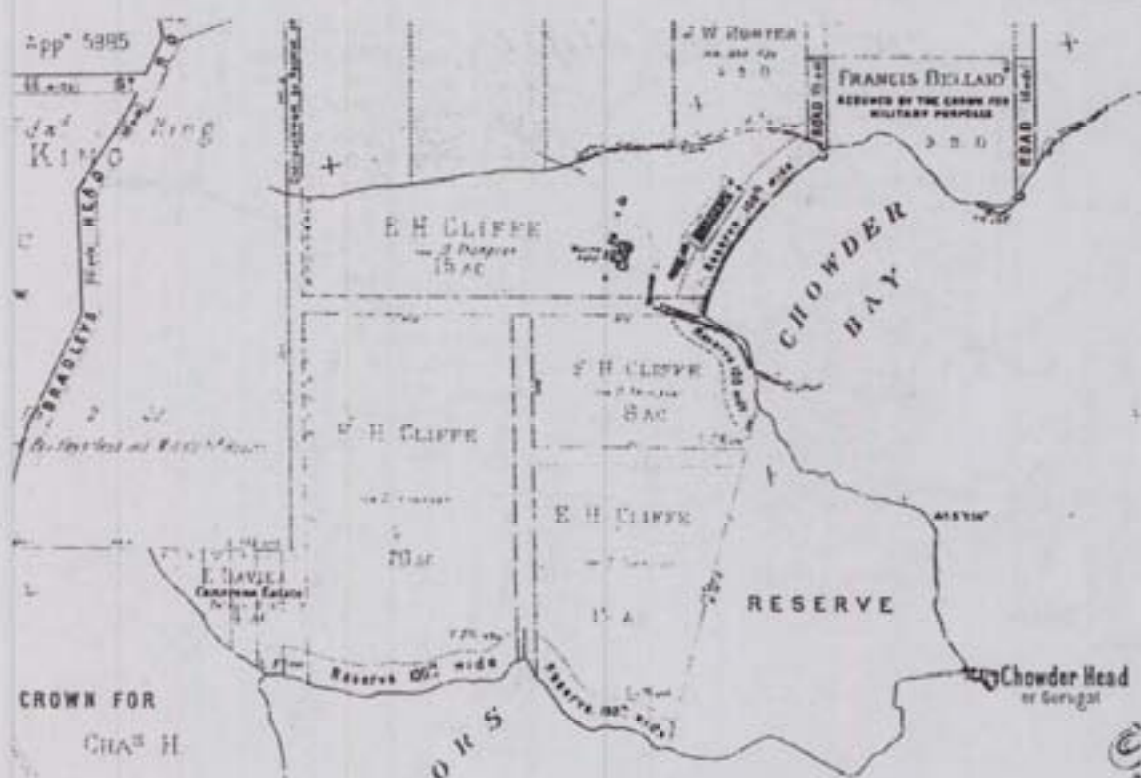


Figure 3.2 1889 plan showing Chowder Bay, with inset showing detail of the recreation area. (Source: Mitchell Library)



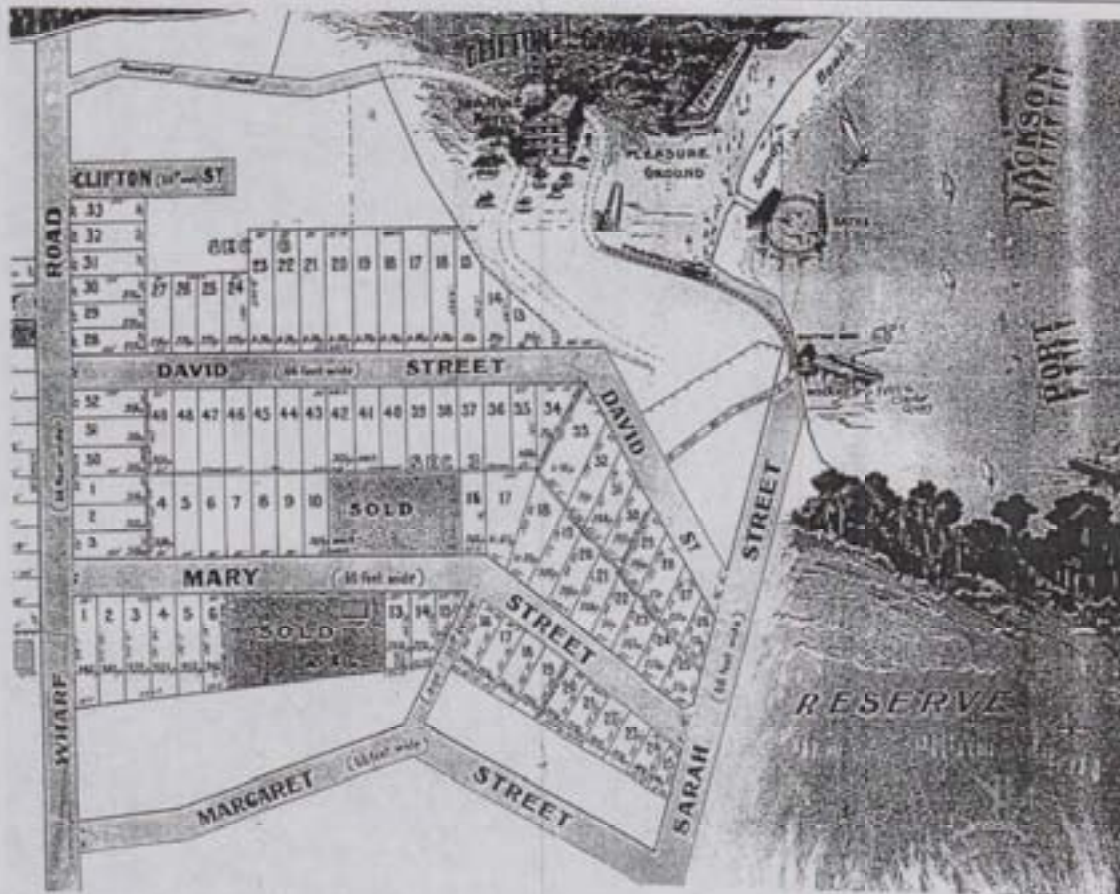


Figure 3.3 1911 subdivision plan of Clifton Gardens. (Source: Mosman Library)

Figure 3.4
c1912 photograph
showing Clifton
Gardens, swimming
enclosure and ferry
wharf. (Source:
G Souter, Mosman
History)

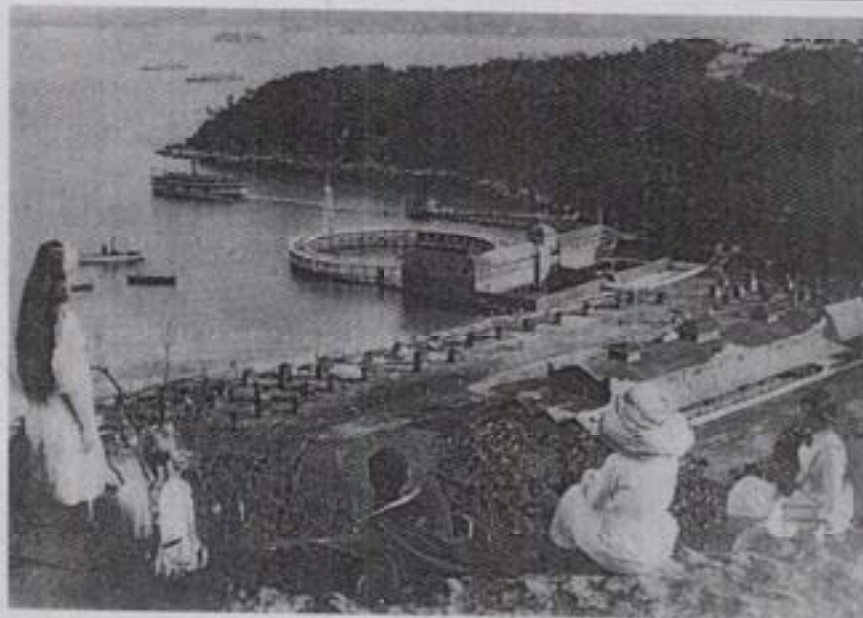


Figure 3.5
1934 photograph
showing a big crowds
at Clifton Gardens.
(Source: Mitchell
Library)



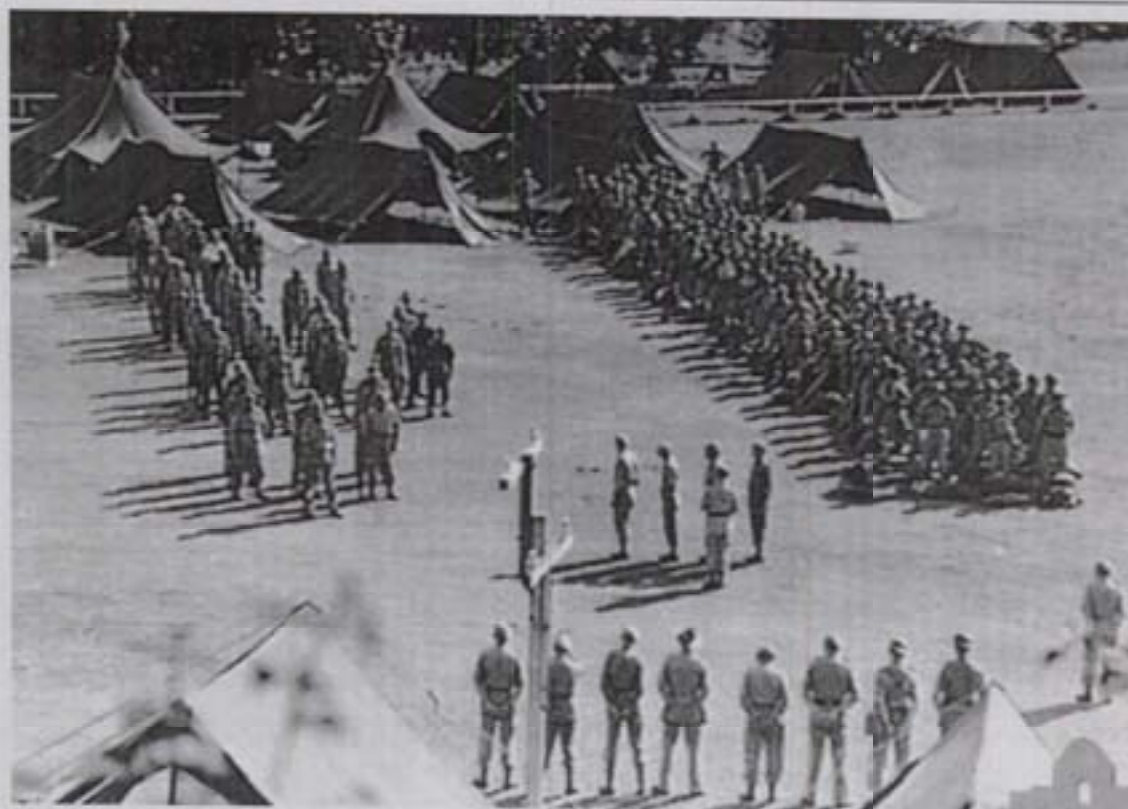


Figure 3.6 1942 photograph showing Water Transport Group activity at Clifton Gardens. (Source: Australian War Memorial)

3.3 Key Historic Themes for Interpreting Clifton Gardens Reserve

3.3.1 Introduction

In preparing to interpret places, it is important to present their past in an informative, interesting and easily accessible way. This is achieved through communicating and delivering information about the key historic themes which have formed the site, which are derived from the Statement of Significance and other assessments, using a variety of media.

Over recent years, a national framework of historic themes has been developed by the Australian Heritage Commission, published in 2001. The *Australian Historic Themes Framework* aims to 'assist in structuring research and to emphasise the historical values of a place to reverse the prevalence of fabric-based assessment by identifying historical processes that might be used in assessing and interpreting heritage significance'. Nine national theme groups were identified, with focused subthemes based on activities. The NSW Heritage Office has also developed State themes that, to a large degree, reflect the national framework.

3.3.2 Key Historic Themes

Interpretation at Clifton Gardens Reserve will focus on the following key national and state themes (see Figure 3.7). Recommendations for interpretive media are outlined in Section 6.0.

Theme	Subtheme	Local representation
National: Tracing the Evolution of the Australian Environment NSW: Environment—naturally evolved		
	Appreciating the natural wonders of Australia	
		<i>Part of Sydney's naturally aesthetic Port Jackson.</i>
National: Peopling Australia NSW: Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures		
	Living as Australia's earliest inhabitants	
		<i>Creation stories pertinent to Clifton Gardens Reserve.</i>
		<i>Use of resources in or around Clifton Gardens Reserve.</i>
		<i>Cultural practices in or around Clifton Gardens Reserve.</i>
National: Developing Local, Regional and National Economies NSW: Transport		
	Moving goods and people	
		<i>Improved ferry and train services provided new opportunities for people to get into the 'bush'.</i>
		<i>In its heyday, 1880 to 1930, regular ferry services would deliver hundreds of people to Clifton Gardens Reserve to enjoy their leisure time.</i>
		<i>When the Sydney Harbour Bridge was completed, and as people were no longer reliant on ferry transport and vehicle ownership increased, places like Clifton Gardens went into a decline as people ranged more widely exploring other places to spend their leisure time eg ocean beaches.</i>
National: Developing Australia's Cultural Life NSW: Leisure		
	Organising recreation	
		<i>Clifton Gardens Reserve is one of a number of 'pleasure grounds' that developed on Sydney Harbour in the 1860s.</i>
		<i>Improving public transport, particularly ferries, in the late eighteenth century allowed city dwellers to spend their leisure time in the natural environment</i>
		<i>Until the mid-1930s many workers, together with their families, enjoyed annual works or union picnic days at Clifton Gardens Reserve.</i>
		<i>Clifton Gardens Reserve is a place for people to spend their leisure time. It has changed many times since the 1860s but it remains an important recreation place for the people of Sydney.</i>
		<i>Clifton Gardens Reserve is an important component of publicly accessible foreshore, protected by all levels of government</i>

Figure 3.7 Key Historic Themes for the Clifton Gardens Reserve.

3.4 Environmental and Management Messages

We understand from Council staff that there may also be management topics that Mosman Council would like to communicate to visitors and walkers that might include regulations on companion animals, boating, fishing and littering.

3.5 Interpretation Concepts arising from Significance

The intention of this Plan is to identify opportunities for site-specific interpretation. Taking into account the historic themes represented along with the significance of the Reserve the following issues emerge:

- Late nineteenth century 'pleasure grounds' on northern side of Sydney Harbour are important because of their links to the development of public transport. Unfortunately most contemporary users arrive by private car. Now that the once regular ferry services, so much a part of the early nineteenth century visitor experience, are gone it is difficult to evoke those connections.
- While Clifton Gardens Reserve is one the largest recreational reserves on Sydney Harbour, with continuous recreational activity on the site since 1860, very little easily-readable above-ground remains are evident in the modern landscape.
- The significant changes in public recreation have played out at the Reserve and other similar places over their long existence. It is difficult for contemporary visitors to understand how different a family outing to Clifton Gardens Reserve might have been 110 or only 70 years ago. The dance pavilion represents a major change in attitudes over time as leisure activities became less formal.

3.6 Endnotes

- ¹ Souter, G *Mosman—A History*, Melbourne University Press, 1994, p 5.
- ² Quoted in *ibid*, p 7.
- ³ *ibid*, p 3.
- ⁴ *ibid*, p 36.
- ⁵ *ibid*.
- ⁶ Sturrock, R, *A Pictorial History of Mosman*, p 13.
- ⁷ Souter, *op cit*, p 36.
- ⁸ Quoted in *ibid*.
- ⁹ *ibid*.
- ¹⁰ *ibid*, p 51.
- ¹¹ *ibid*, p 65.
- ¹² *ibid*.
- ¹³ Presumably a wharf had existed on the site previously.
- ¹⁴ Godden Mackay, 1991, Sydney and Middle Harbours Heritage Study.
- ¹⁵ Spearritt, P 1978, *Sydney Since the Twenties*, Hale and Iremonger, p 236.
- ¹⁶ Souter, *op cit*, p 65.
- ¹⁷ *ibid*, p 66.
- ¹⁸ *ibid*.
- ¹⁹ Spearritt, *op cit*, p 236.
- ²⁰ Booklet published by Sydney Ferries Ltd in 1905.
- ²¹ Quoted in PSB, *Management Framework*, 2003, referenced as Allan 1991, p 135.
- ²² Souter, *op cit*, p 66.
- ²³ Spearritt, *op cit*, p 237.
- ²⁴ From photographs held in the collections of the State Library of NSW.
- ²⁵ Spearritt, *op cit*, p 239.
- ²⁶ *ibid*, p 240.
- ²⁷ Souter, *op cit*, p 291.
- ²⁸ *ibid*.

4.0 Place Inventory

4.1 Existing Visitation

There is no documentation about the users of the Clifton Gardens Reserve, although casual observation suggests that many current weekday users are local and taking advantage of opportunities for relaxation, personal exercise and exercise for companion animals.

Observation of weekend visitation suggests that the Reserve is a favourite and regular meeting place for many extended family groups, as well as community groups who use the Reserve for recreation and entertainment.

4.2 Associated People

There are several distinct groups of people who may have an interest in the site, although none have been identified during the course of this project. Further research would be required to identify associated individuals and groups. A general description of associated people follows.

Aboriginal People

There may be some as yet unidentified Aboriginal people with connections to the site. While undertaking an extensive investigation into the Aboriginal Heritage of Mosman Local Government Area, staff of the Australian Museum found that no Aboriginal people responded to their call for participation.¹ Representatives of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council contributed to that heritage study.² In the absence of the identification of traditionally associated people, Allen Madden of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council has provided guidance while this report has been in development. He advises that archaeological investigation is proceeding into a midden complex at the northern end of the harbour beach beyond the boundary of Clifton Gardens Reserve. Following analysis and further discussions, it may be possible to interpret the findings in a culturally appropriate way.³

Family Associations

There may be a number of people who have a strong attachment to the Reserve because their families owned or managed enterprises in the Clifton Gardens Reserve or who regularly participated in formal or informal activities at the reserve. None have been identified during the course of this project.

Local Associations

Another distinct group is characterised as people with personal knowledge or experience of Clifton Garden Reserve in recent years. They may include neighbours or former neighbours, council staff, and National Park or Navy employees.

Public Agencies

Several public agencies have an interest in the study area. Mosman Municipal Council is commissioning the project. However, local councils including North Sydney and Manly may also have an interest, particularly with regard to the potential for through-walks along the harbour foreshore. As direct neighbours, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Sydney Water, NSW Maritime Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service) may also be interested in liaising with Council as works proceed.

4.3 Audiences

The heritage values of the site are important to both the residents of Clifton Gardens, Mosman and the wider community. Interpretation at Clifton Gardens Reserve will add to community knowledge about local heritage and will provide a community heritage information resource that has not been previously available. Accessible interpretation of the values will ensure the place is appreciated by the wider community.

Interpretation is most successful when it is targeted specifically to audience needs in terms of orientation, information and personal safety, and when it responds to known audience behaviour.

The number and type of visitors may be affected if a longer through-walk is promoted.

Several audience segments are described below.

Through-walkers

A growing audience is developing as more people discover the potential for a longer walk, for example, from Taronga Zoo to Balmoral, that includes the Clifton Gardens Foreshore Walkway. There is potential for the walk to extend from Middle Harbour to Milsons Point and beyond. Many people, including international and interstate visitors, undertaking such a through walk will be interested in the landscapes, views and other significant values on the northern side of the harbour including a brief insight into the history of the Clifton Gardens Reserve. They are also likely to be tempted to walk out along the jetty to investigate the harbour waters and the views.

There are a variety of agencies, including Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, NSW National Parks and Wildlife and several municipal councils who may need to collaborate on an overall planning process for a through-walk as described. Planning would include track consistency, marking and marketing, but it would also need to take into account a thematic interpretive framework for the entire walk. Ideally, themes would be interpreted along the walk where they are most appropriate without unwarranted repetition.

Weekend Recreational Users

The family and community groups that regularly use Clifton Gardens Reserve as a picnic or recreation site are likely to be interested in changes at a site they return to regularly and may engage with the stories of the place. As regular visitors, they may introduce newcomers to the site by showing them the interpretive media.

Casual Users for Recreation or Exercise

Local people walking or jogging for exercise and dog owners walking their pets are a important recreational users of the reserve.

Potential to engage recreational users and exercisers is high but short term. While they are likely to be interested in the history of their locality, if they use the track regularly any static interpretation will be ignored after they have explored the place. However, they may bring friends or family to visit and explore further.

School Groups

Clifton Gardens Reserve is regularly used for school picnics and events, with some schools visiting annually for a full day of activities. There is potential to engage school students with interpretive media and encourage their learning by providing interpretation and highlighting links for further study.

4.4 Education Curricula Linkages

There are range of opportunities to support learning activities within the New South Wales curriculum, to engage primary and secondary school students with the Reserve's heritage and other values. For example:

Key Learning Area	Stage	Curriculum Area/Comments
HSIE	K-6	HSIE Strands: Change and Continuity, Cultures, Environments and Social Systems and Structures.
	St1	'Transport', 'Celebrations'.
	St2-3	Overview of significant aspects of Australian History within a generalised framework.
	St2	'Australia: You're Standing in It'; 'Places, Then, Now and Tomorrow'.

Key Learning Area	Stage	Curriculum Area/Comments
HSIE cont.	7–10	History
	St4	Mandatory—Topic 1 'Investigating History'.
	St5	Mandatory—Topics 3–5 'Australia to 1914'; Australia and World War I; and 'Australia between the Wars'.
	St4–5	Mandatory Courses—Compulsory Site Study.
	11–12	History
		Mandatory Part 4—The World at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century.
Visual Design	7–10	Geography
	St5	Mandatory—Changing Australian Communities.
	K–6	Creative Arts.
	7–10	Visual Arts
	St4	Visual Arts Mandatory—Art-making and critical and historical studies. Practice, Conceptual Framework, Frames. Practice—Students making art, critical and historical interpretations of visual design artworks. Conceptual Framework—identifies functional and intentional relations of artist, artwork, world and audience as agencies of the art world. The Frames—Subjective, cultural, structural and postmodern—account for different points of view, values and belief in and about visual design.
	St5	Photographic and Digital Media—Making, Critical and Historical Interpretations.

4.5 Pre-visit Information

There is very little pre-visit information available for Clifton Gardens Reserve; there is a body of knowledge amongst Sydneysiders that has been, and continues to be, transferred from person to person by word of mouth. The Reserve is marked on all Sydney street directories.

Mosman Municipal Council's website www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/recreation/parks.html has some information on the Reserve which describes it as having:

Toilets, lots of trees, large open area, play equipment, two basketball hoops, change rooms, seating, baths and wharf. Parking available (pay and display ticket area).

There is also a downloadable brochure *Mosman; History of its Harbour*, developed for Harbour Week 2003, on Council's website (www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/planning/brochure_history_harbour.pdf) that gives an overview of four of Mosman's bays and includes information about Chowder Bay and Clifton Gardens Reserve.

4.6 The Public Domain

Clifton Gardens Reserve is a flat area of land situated between two steep ridges to the north and west, and bounded on the southeastern side by the shore of Chowder Bay, part of Sydney Harbour.

The northern ridge is part of Sydney Harbour National Park and is covered with dense native vegetation. A natural stream, now canalised, runs along the northern boundary of the Reserve dividing it from the wooded ridge of the Sydney Harbour National Park. To the east of this ridge and beyond the boundary of the study area is the Former Army Maritime School. The northwestern area of the site tapers into a narrow channel between the two ridges. Approximately twenty percent of the site is inaccessible bushland.

The ridge to the southwest is also densely treed, but consists of residential development, having been subdivided in 1911 and 1919. The foreshore area of the reserve is extensive and a sandstone block retaining wall separates the sand from the grassed edge of the reserve. Over time there have been a variety of jetties and wharves extending into the bay.

A variety of buildings and structures have featured in the landscape of Clifton Garden Reserve; some structures are now no longer extant and result from previous phases of development, while others are more recent additions. There are numerous photographs and other documents that give evidence of the variety of buildings on the site during the pleasure ground phase, but they are no longer extant.

Former Hotel Site

A hotel building was constructed on the site in 1871 which had a variety of names over the years until it was demolished in the 1960s. The site of the hotel is marked by a bronze plaque on the grassed area inside the curve of the access road (see Figures 4.1 and 4.2). The alignment of the access road is thought to be original, leading past the hotel site to the wharf. There are also pedestrian steps off the access road leading down to the car park area and a range of other sections of worked sandstone, including cut rock walls and a large sandstone boulder cut, which suggests that it may also have been a pedestrian route (see Figure 4.3).

Sea Wall

The sea wall was originally timber. Sometime after 1930, the timber was replaced with sandstone block (see Figure 4.4). Concrete access steps are a later addition, possibly from the 1970s (see Figure 4.5).

Wharf and Associated Structures

Pleasure ground structures added during the late-nineteenth century included a wharf, jetties and various other buildings, none of which survive, although a more modern jetty exists with a shark net attached to protect the beach. In the early twentieth century, Sydney Ferries Ltd constructed a circular swimming enclosure with associated dressing rooms, and a tramway that connected the southern jetty with the hotel. There are no above-sea-level remains of these elements, although there is underwater evidence of the circular structure in an aerial photo of the site (see Figure 1.2).

Picnic Area

The existing paved picnic area with tables and shade trees seems to correlate with the location of the weatherboard dancing pavilion built during the pleasure ground phase. Currently, the picnic area is run down and in need of improvement (see Figure 4.6).

Playground

There is a playground in the northeastern corner of the reserve; Council has it scheduled for an upgrade in the near future (see Figure 4.7).

Bus Stop, Turning Point and Pedestrian Precinct

At the northeastern apex of the access road there is a bus turning point, a bus stop and a pedestrian precinct cantilevered over the sandstone cliff. It allows access to the lower levels of the reserve along footpaths and stairs (see Figure 4.8).

Sewage Pumping Station

Sewage Pumping Station No. 54 (see Figure 4.9) is located just outside the northeastern boundary of the site, adjacent to the canalised water course along the northern boundary (see Figure 4.10).

Cultural Landscape

Most of Clifton Gardens Reserve is open and grassy with a variety of trees remaining from earlier periods, including some palms and coral trees that may remain from cultural plantings associated with the dancing pavilion. The foreshore area is open, with several shade trees growing close to the sandy beach.

The surrounding bushland, on the enclosing ridges to the north and west, include remnant areas of Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest, these forests are significantly degraded due to weed infestation. A variety of native shrubs and trees are growing between the sandstone scarp and the adjacent carpark.

4.7 Associated Collections

Photographic material relating to Clifton Gardens Reserve is held at:

- Mosman Library Local Studies Photographic Collection;
- National Library of Australia;
- Australian War Memorial; and
- State Library of New South Wales.

4.7.1 Known Documentary Resources

Australian Museum Business Services, 2004, *Aboriginal Heritage Study of the Mosman Local Government Area*.

Booklet published by Sydney Ferries Ltd in 1905.

Godden Mackay Logan 1998, Clifton Gardens Reserve Archaeological Assessment.

Souter, G 1994, *Mosman: A History*, Melbourne University Press.

Spearritt, P 1978, *Sydney Since the Twenties*, Hale and Iremonger.

Sturrock, R A 1982, *Pictorial History of Mosman*, Griffin Press.

4.8 Associated Places

Several other places in Sydney are associated with pleasure gardens and provided access to bathing similar to the activities at Clifton Gardens Reserve. They include Athol Hall/Ashton Gardens, Manly Wharf, the Dawn Fraser Pool in Balmain, Nielsen Park in Vaucluse, Audley in the Royal National Park, Fairyland in the Lane Cove National Park, the Coogee Palace Aquarium and Wylie's Baths at Coogee, the Bondi Bathers Pavilion and the former Como Pleasure Gardens. Some of these other places retain more tangible evidence of these phases.

4.9 Archaeological Heritage

It is likely that archaeological remains of former buildings, paths, jetties, pool enclosures etc remain throughout the reserve with varying degrees of disturbance.

In 1998 Godden Mackay Logan assessed the archaeological potential of the reserve for Australian Water Technologies, who proposed to excavate a trench for a water main across the reserve. The report concluded that there are likely to be resources with archaeological potential at the site and recommended further investigation.⁴

4.10 Wayfinding, Arrival and Access

There are multiple access points to the reserve, but the main vehicle access is through suburban Mosman and Clifton Gardens via Morella Road. A moderately steep and winding access road within Clifton Gardens Reserve terminates in an extensive pay-parking area.

A bus stop and turning area is located at the top of the access road, and pedestrians access the lower levels of the reserve along footpaths and stairs.

Clifton Gardens Reserve is also serviced from the south by a pedestrian path from Taronga Zoo and from the northeast by a path through the Chowder Bay Historic Site. Pedestrians can also access the reserve via Morella Road and the access stairways. The foreshore area is conducive to swimming with a wide flat sandy shoreline and a shark net.

Access from the water is also possible, either by temporarily mooring to the jetty or by pulling a small craft onto the shore.

4.10.1 Track Network

Mosman, Manly and North Sydney Councils, Taronga Zoo, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, NSW National Parks and Wildlife and other land managers are responsible for a variety of harbour foreshore walks in the vicinity of Clifton Gardens Reserve. At present, there are a range of track types, grades and levels of accessibility. There is relatively little information publicly available about the continuation of routes along the foreshore where land management changes from one owner to another. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust provides information on their website (see Figure 4.11) and a sign with a brochure holder at the boundary of their property and Clifton Gardens (see Figure 4.12) indicating the route of a through walk across their property. Some Sydney street directories, eg Sydways, clearly show footpaths around the foreshore; however, there is a lack of information about routes that provide links between tracks to avoid areas of private land.



Figure 4.1
A plaque marks the site of the former hotel building.



Figure 4.2
Detail of the plaque commemorating the hotel site.

Figure 4.3
Cut sandstone boulder
that may relate to
access between the
hotel site and the lower
reserve.



Figure 4.4
Sandstone seawall.





Figure 4.5
Concrete access steps.



Figure 4.6
The existing paved picnic area.

Figure 4.7
The existing
playground.



Figure 4.8
The bus stop and
pedestrian precinct
are located close to
the original site of the
hotel.





Figure 4.9
The Sewage
Pumping Station.



Figure 4.10
The canalised water
course.



Figure 4.11 Map from the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust website showing the continuing walk through their lands from the northwestern end of Clifton Gardens Reserve



Figure 4.12 Sydney Harbour Federation Trust sign providing interpretive and orientation material at the boundary Trust lands and Clifton Gardens Reserve.

4.11 Endnotes

- ¹ Pers comm, Nick de Brett, Mosman Municipal Council, October 2004.
- ² Aboriginal Heritage Study of the Mosman Local Government Area, prepared by Australian Museum Business Services, Draft, August 2004.
- ³ Pers comm, Allen Madden, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, July 2005.
- ⁴ Godden Mackay, Clifton Gardens Reserve Archaeological Assessment, 1998.

5.0 Review of Interpretation Opportunities and Constraints

5.1 Opportunities Arising from Significance of the Place

- Reinforce the importance of public transport to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century experience of Clifton Gardens Reserve by using images and text in the interpretation that include ferries and refer to ferry services.
- Emphasise the vast change in the landscape of the Reserve, from bush to a place covered with buildings to a open grassy parkland, by using many images in the interpretation that show built structures on the land and over the water.
- Interpret the dancing pavilion, one of the most dominant structures of the pleasure ground phase, by marking its footprint and using the resulting area as a paved picnic area. The roof lines of the dancing pavilion could be interpreted by providing either a full or partial shade structure over the paved picnic area. The furniture and pavement of the picnic area could be designed to be interpretive.
- Highlight significant changes in the level and type of public recreational activity at the Reserve by using images and text in the interpretation that illustrate the different phases.

5.2 Opportunities Arising from the Management Framework and Masterplan

Consideration has been given to the proposals recommended in the 2003 Management Framework and Masterplan in the knowledge that Clifton Gardens Reserve has been found to have Local heritage significance. Taking into account the principles of sustainable heritage practice and in the light of limited resources¹, the following comments are made:

Foreshore Walkway Link

Masterplan Action 1: Construct Foreshore Walkway Link—Provide a pedestrian link adjacent to the seawall between the northeastern and southwestern extremes of the reserve, as well as wheelchair access from the carpark to the beach.

The Foreshore Walkway is a vital component of, and location for, interpretation of Clifton Gardens Reserve. Most visitors to the site will use or cross the path during their visit, and an increasing number of through-walkers will come to an understanding of the history of the place through interpretive signs located on the track. Construction of the Foreshore Walkway is **recommended**.

Masterplan Actions 2 and 3—did not have interpretive outcomes.

Clifton Gardens Pavilion Site

Masterplan Action 4: Interpretation of the Former Clifton Gardens Pavilion Site—Provide a lightweight pergola structure on the site of the former pavilion to increase the site's amenity for picnickers and to interpret the former dancing pavilion.

The paving and furniture on the former dancing pavilion site is regarded as being in need of an upgrade.² A paved footprint marking the outline of the building as constructed is **recommended** to interpret its scale, this may require further reference to archaeological remains. Images from the pleasure garden phase of the reserve and interpretive texts are **recommended** for inclusion in the paving and on the furniture to evoke previous times. As a part of the upgrade, Council may commission a lightweight pergola structure to provide increased amenity for visitors. Should this pergola be commissioned, it is **recommended** that it be designed to sensitively and accurately interpret the historic rooflines of the former dancing pavilion (as proposed in the Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan) and the pergola infrastructure should include texts and images to further interpret the historic themes.

Clifton Gardens Hotel Site

***Masterplan Action 5: Interpretation of the Former Clifton Gardens Hotel Site**—Provide a sequence of viewing platforms adjacent to the location of the former hotel site, to interpret the hotel.*

Observation of the use of Clifton Gardens Reserve suggests that most long-distance visitors travel to the reserve by car, while locals come by foot. There are no current plans to construct new platforms and steps as described in the Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan. Should public transport and pedestrian access significantly increase in the future, new access steps may be required and interpretive viewing platforms may well be appropriate; however, it is not recommended at present. An introductory interpretive sign is **recommended** for the bus stop area.

Upgrade Activities Zone—Playground Area

***Masterplan Action 6: Upgrade Activities Zone**—Several proposals came under this recommendation, including an upgrade for the playground area with a fairground theme to reflect the former activities at the reserve.*

It would be ideal to redesign the playground area with imaginative play equipment employing an appropriate theme. There is some concern that the 'fairground' theme with its suggestion of side-show alley and travelling fairs does not accurately describe the actual history of the Reserve. Instead a pleasure garden theme with less emphasis on carnival activity is **recommended**.

Upgrade Bathing Enclosure and Beach

***Masterplan Action 7: Upgrade Bathing Enclosure and Beach**—Improve access to the beach, and construct a circular bathing enclosure interpreting the previous structure.*

In good heritage practice, it is rare that structures that have been demolished in a previous management decision are reconstructed for interpretive purposes. Taking into account the lack of detailed knowledge to support reconstructions, changes in attitudes to recreation, leisure and, in particular, swimming, as well budgetary factors, the reconstruction of the bathing enclosure is **not recommended** as an interpretive action.

Upgrade Signs

Masterplan Action 9: Demolition/Upgrade—This action includes entry signs and interpretive signs that mark an informal heritage trail.

Sensitively designed entry signs and interpretive signs would enhance visitor understanding of the site and are strongly **recommended** for Clifton Gardens Reserve.

In 2003 the draft Management Framework and Masterplan was exhibited for public comment and a range of submissions were received by Council.

Comments included:

- requests for the Reserve to remain 'natural' and informal;
- requests for a low-key Interpretation Strategy; and
- requests for further consideration of the cost implications of some of the proposed infrastructure.³

5.3 Other Opportunities for Interpretation

In the future, where new work and redevelopment work is undertaken in the Clifton Gardens Reserve, Council should consider every opportunity to reinforce and interpret the historic values of the site. For example, it is understood that the play equipment is to be upgraded in the near future and Council's landscape planning staff are employing play equipment that reflects the 'fairground theme' outlined in the 2003 Management Framework and Masterplan to infuse the theme of pleasure grounds in the redesign and style of play equipment. As previously noted, 'fairground' is not an appropriate theme or design idiom.

An interactive website is a cost effective method of communicating the significant historic values and stories of Clifton Gardens. It also may lead to an increased amount of information about its social value.

5.4 Constraints for Interpretation

As with most public areas, there are a number of constraints to effective heritage management and interpretation at Clifton Gardens.

- The installation of new structures, or the upgrading of existing amenities, must be carefully planned to minimise impact on the archaeological resource.
- Clifton Gardens Reserve is used by a wide range of people from across Sydney, well beyond the municipal boundary of Mosman, but Council will be responsible for resourcing amenity upgrades to the landscape, installation of interpretation and ongoing maintenance.

-
- Clifton Gardens Reserve is regarded to be of Local heritage significance and the availability of resources may constrain the effective interpretation of the site.

5.5 Interpretation Policy for the Clifton Gardens Reserve

Interpretation of the heritage values of Clifton Gardens Reserve provides an opportunity to engage visitors and locals in the stories of the place. By making a connection with the past, visitors to Mosman will better understand the context of their surroundings.

The installation of interpretive media will provide unique opportunities for people to experience the 'then and now' characteristics of the place. By focusing on the historic documentation, locals and visitors can be provided with direct and tangible links to the history of the place, which will enhance their appreciation and understanding. In spite of the lack of fabric remaining at the reserve, visitors will get an insight into the changes to Clifton Gardens Reserve over time.

The interpretation of Clifton Gardens Reserve will:

- interpret the Reserve's significance and values, with a focus on the pleasure ground phase;
- be clear, accurate and concise;
- engage and stimulate public interest;
- be as accessible as possible;
- be reversible;
- be compatible with the character of the places in which they are sited but distinguishable as new works;
- be integral to ongoing conservation and planning;
- not disturb archaeological remains at the site;
- ensure against any compromise to the research potential of the fabric or in-situ archaeological remains;
- be resilient to vandals; and
- provide 'value for money'.

5.6 Key Interpretation Themes and Messages

In planning for concise and accessible interpretation of a place, key messages provide a site-specific focus on the most essential components of communication for Clifton Gardens Reserve.

5.6.1 Key Messages—follow from the historic themes identified in Section 3.3

Theme	Key Message
Living as Australia's Earliest Inhabitants	
	<i>Creation stories, use of resources or cultural practices in or around Clifton Gardens Reserve—as appropriate, to be further negotiated with Aboriginal community members.</i>
Moving Goods and People	
	<i>Better public transport in the late nineteenth century allowed Sydney's city dwellers to visit and enjoy pleasure gardens such as Clifton Gardens Reserve.</i>
	<i>Throughout Clifton Gardens Reserve's heyday, 1880 to 1930, regular ferry services would deliver hundreds of people to the reserve for a fun day in the sun.</i>
	<i>Times change in the 1930s, as more and more Sydneysiders owned cars they began to explore further afield—especially to ocean beaches.</i>
Organising Recreation	
	<i>Clifton Gardens Reserve is one of a number of 'pleasure grounds' that developed in the 1860s on the Sydney Harbour foreshore providing for recreation and leisure.</i>
	<i>In the late-nineteenth century, fleets of ferries and other public transport allowed city dwellers to spend their leisure time near safe beaches in Sydney Harbour.</i>
	<i>Until the mid-1930s, many workers enjoyed work or union picnic days at Clifton Gardens Reserve—one day a year with workmates and family without any work responsibilities.</i>
	<i>Clifton Gardens Reserve has changed many times since the 1860s, but it remains an important recreation place for the people of Sydney.</i>

5.6.2 Other Key Messages—for consideration by Mosman Council or other authorities

Managing This Special Place	
	<i>Be responsible pet owners.</i>
	<i>Be responsible boat owners.</i>
	<i>Be responsible fishers.</i>
Exploring the Harbour Foreshore	
	<i>Clifton Gardens Reserve links to paths that continue in both directions along the harbour foreshore.</i>
Finding out more about Mosman's History	
	<i>Links to the many opportunities for people to find out more about Mosman's and, in particular, Clifton Gardens Reserve's history.</i>

5.7 Interpretive Resources

Interpretive resources are the materials, actual and documented, that have a potential to inform one or all segments of the identified audience (see Section 4.3) about the values at Clifton Gardens Reserve.

Available interpretive resources include:

- historic photographs, maps and plans (subject to copyright of images and documentation);
- historic photographic images (subject to copyright of images);
- a brochure for the Clifton Gardens Hotel;
- an area of paving, with associated trees, that may correlate with the location of the 1885 pavilion;
- at least two sets of pedestrian steps cut from the sandstone cliff face or stone that may date from the 1870s and are likely to have provided access between the hotel and the reserve;
- access to views;
- potential Aboriginal sites in the reserve, including the midden near the northern boundary with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust land; and
- potential archaeological remains at Clifton Gardens showing the location and other details of buildings and activities at the reserve since the 1860s.

5.8 Methods

A wide range of interpretive devices are available for heritage places—from simple interpretive signs to complex soundscapes and from art installations to public events. In the case of Clifton Gardens Reserve, a simple range of devices are proposed, including:

- an interpretive installation;
- a Clifton Gardens Reserve webpage accessible from Mosman Council's website; and
- interpretive signs.

Interpretive media are shown at Figure 5.1 and developed in Section 6.0.

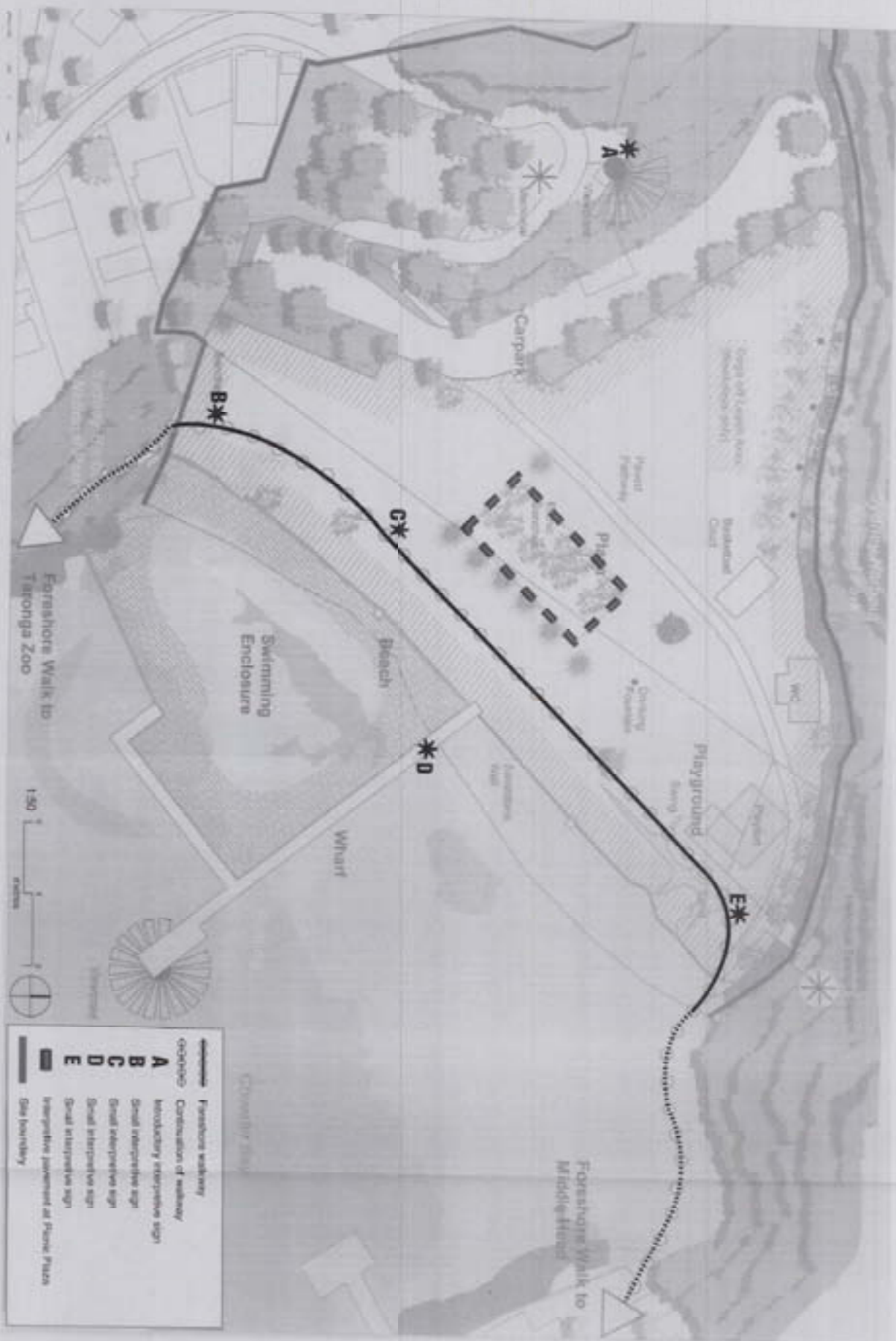


Figure 3.1 Clifton Gardens with interpretation nodes (Blackground plan: Existing Recreational Elements from Pittwater Shire's 2003 Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan).

5.9 Media and Locations

A variety of interpretive media are proposed for Clifton Gardens (see Figure 5.1). These aim to interpret the significance of the place to the identified audiences with appropriately designed media sited in a variety of locations.

5.9.1 Interpretive Installations

Foreshore Walkway Link

The Foreshore Walkway is important for access and interpretation at Clifton Gardens Reserve. As recommended in the 2003 Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan, the walkway should be aligned adjacent to the seawall allowing for easy access to the paths that continue from each end of the reserve. It should be made from a stable material that will provide a fully accessible surface. The walkway should also link directly to the carpark with a similar path and also provide on-grade ramps to the beach to enable full access. The footpath will have several interpretive signs along its route.

Clifton Gardens Pavilion Site

An outline footprint marking the scale of floor area of the dancing pavilion as constructed should be installed. An upgrade of the furniture and paving is recommended for the picnic area which is thought to coincide, at least in part, with the former dancing pavilion site. Images, symbols and words from the pleasure garden phase of the site could be included in the paving and on the park furniture. To interpret dancing activities, footprints of appropriate dance steps could be inset or stencilled onto the pavement. In order to authenticate the location and scale of the former dancing pavilion a small amount of archaeological investigation may be required.

To provide additional shade, if required, a lightweight pergola structure could also be provided. It would be sympathetically designed to interpret the historic rooflines of the former dancing pavilion, as illustrated in Figures 5.2 and 5.3. When the pergola is commissioned, further interpretation would guide the design of its structure.

Upgrade Activities Zone—Playground Area

Plans are currently being developed by Council to upgrade the playground area. By replacing the obsolete play equipment with modern imaginative play equipment emphasising and interpreting the pleasure garden (rather than the 'fairground') theme the equipment will reinforce the history of the Reserve.

Figure 5.2

The dancing pavilion in 1910, a picnic pergola should reflect the style but not the scale of the former dancing pavilion. (Source: Joan Lawrence's Pictorial History: Lavender Bay to The Spit p 100—not for public use)



Figure 5.3

The dancing pavilion in the lower left corner showing trellis work on the second story balcony and the clerestories. (Source: NSW State Library picture collection PXE 711/91—not for public use)



5.9.2 Interpretive Webpage

Develop and maintain an internet-based A4 'print your own' map and brochure for Clifton Gardens Reserve on Council's website. There is currently an 'overview' brochure on four of Mosman's bays, including Chowder Bay which provide information on Clifton Gardens Reserve; however, a site-specific brochure, printable from the website, for the Reserve would provide text and images to illustrate all historic themes in this report, as well as maps and information about access to the Reserve and the links to the extended Harbour Foreshore walk. The webpage could also provide links to other sites where users could access further information, both about historically associated places and similar alternative places to explore and enjoy. People with memories and experiences of Clifton Gardens could be encouraged to provide information to the website.

5.9.3 Interpretive Signs

Sign Design

Sensitively-designed entry signs and interpretive signs would enhance visitor understanding of the history and significance of Clifton Gardens. Three designs are submitted for interpretive signs on the site. They are designed for durability, are relatively unobtrusive in the landscape but offer an opportunity to brand Mosman Municipal Council as the 'host' agency. Figure 5.1 illustrates proposed locations for interpretive signs at the site.

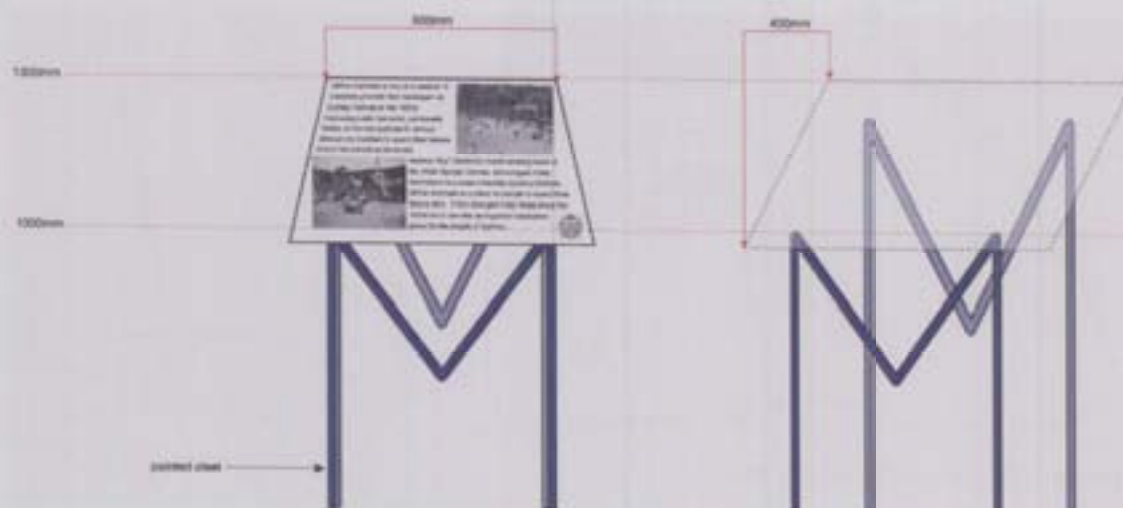


Figure 5.4 Interpretive Sign—Big M design.

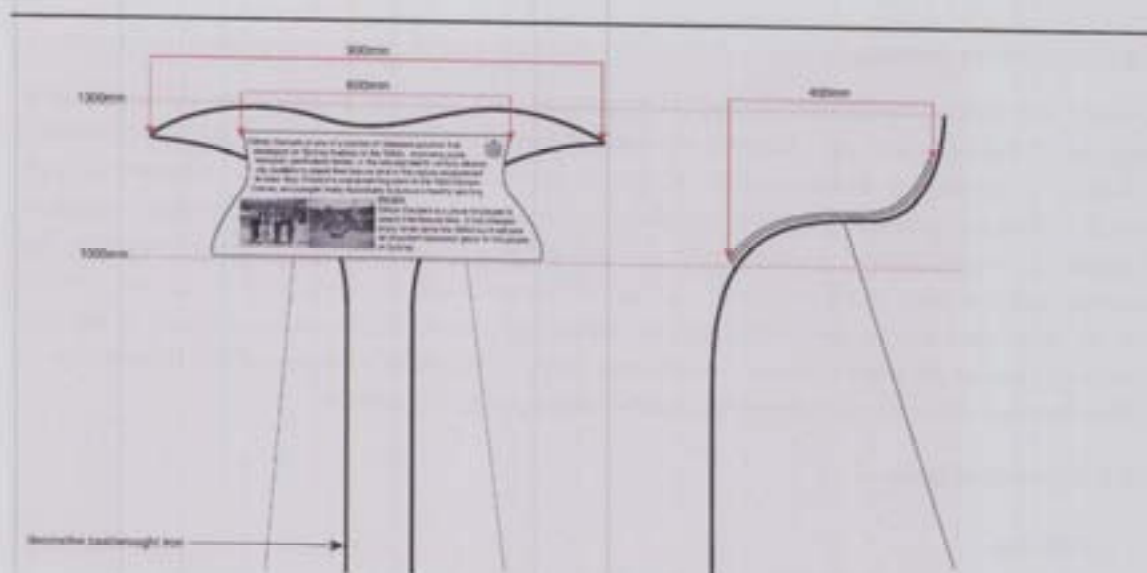


Figure 5.5 Interpretive Sign—Whale Tail design.

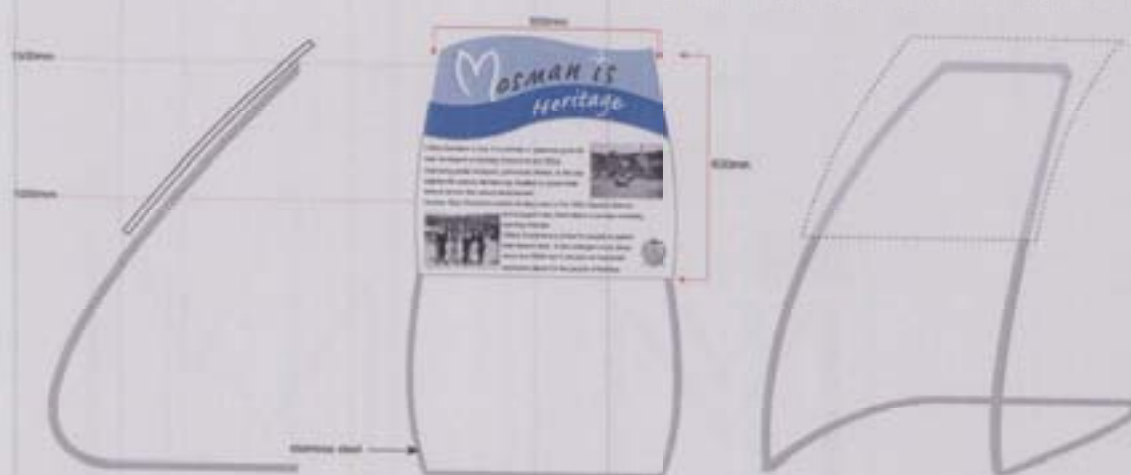


Figure 5.6 Interpretive Sign—Curvy design.

5.10 Endnotes

- ¹ Advice from Council staff.
- ² Advice from Council staff.
- ³ Taken from Mosman Council's *Summary of Submissions Received* regarding the Public Exhibition of the Draft Management Framework and Landscape Masterplan for Clifton Gardens Reserve.

6.0

Interpretation Plan: Content and Implementation

6.1 Key Texts and Illustrations

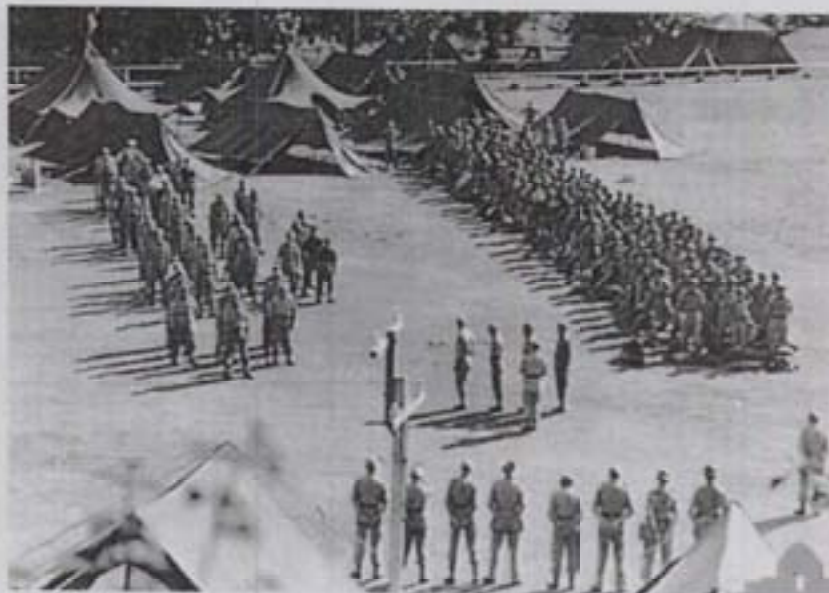
The content of the interpretive signs presents the dual historic themes of *Organising Recreation* and *Moving Goods and People*. The following content is recommended for signs, along with notional materials and size for each sign. Together, the signs will represent most of the key messages identified for the site.

The key messages from the *Living as Australia's Earliest Inhabitants* theme focusing on Aboriginal values is only briefly alluded to as it is considered more appropriate to interpret those in less disturbed areas beyond the boundary of Clifton Gardens Reserve along the harbour foreshore through-walk where they may relate more closely to Aboriginal sites. Style, location and content of interpretive media would be negotiated with staff of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council observing culturally appropriate protocols.

Sign A

Location	At viewing point, near bus stop, overlooking the reserve.
Size	Surface area approximately equivalent to 600mm x 600mm.
Materials	Full-colour anodised aluminium with anti-graffiti laminate.
Primary Heading	Clifton Gardens has seen many changes

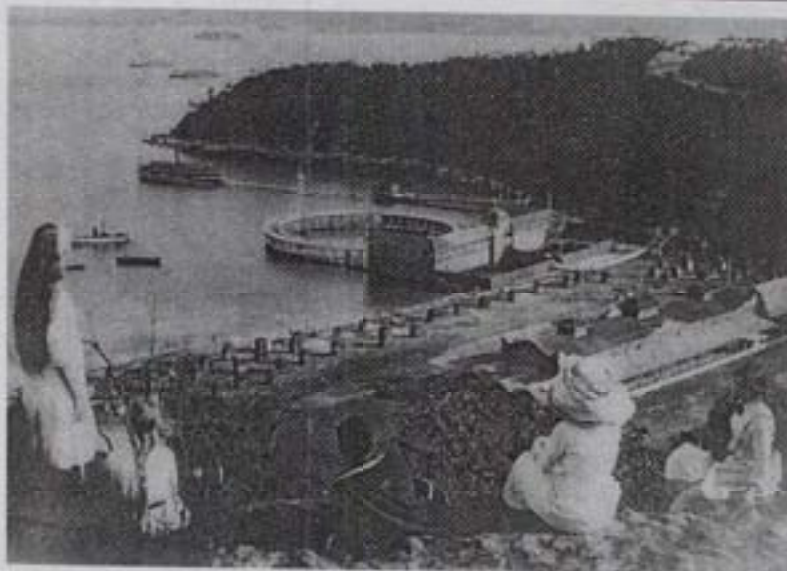
Image



Caption Military parades and training activities were a common sight here during World War II. (Photograph reproduced from Australian War Memorial Collection. Image number 027593—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credit Photo: Australian War Memorial Collection.

Image



Caption

Clifton Gardens Reserve as it was at the beginning of last century. You can see a ferry steaming away from the wharf and the amazing circular swimming enclosure—so different from today. (Photograph reproduced from Mosman Local Studies Collection—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credit

Photo: Mosman Local Studies Collection.

Image



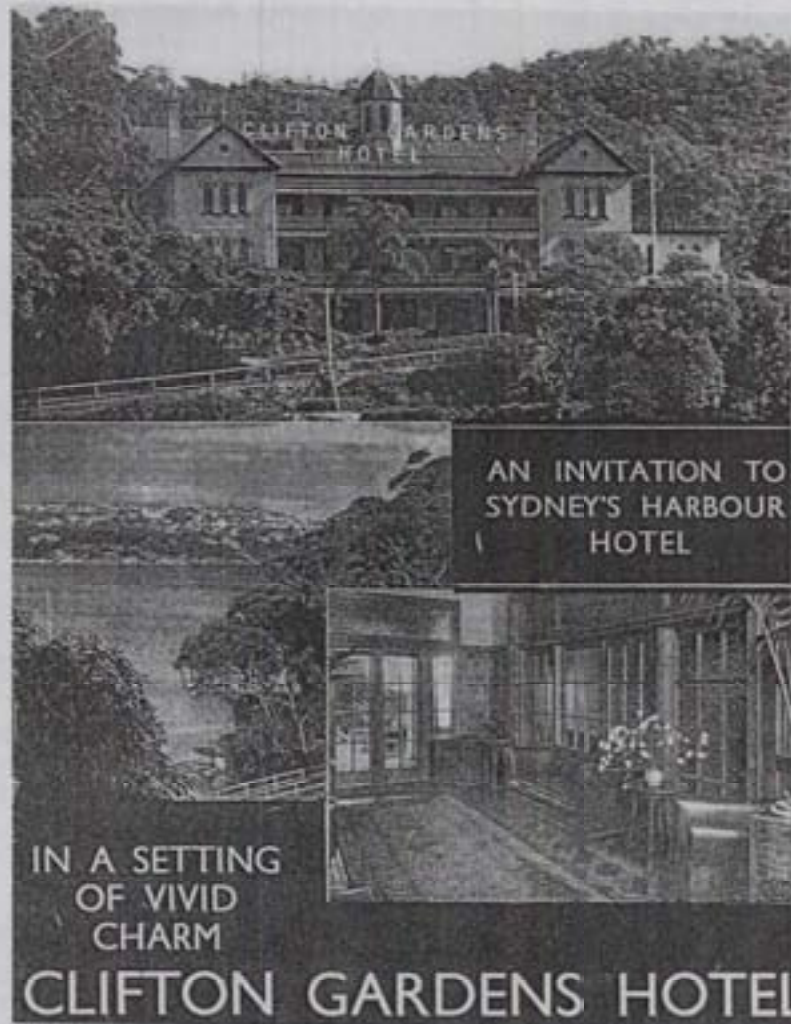
Caption

Friends and colleagues stepping out in 1934 at Clifton Gardens Reserve for the Textile Workers' Picnic. (Photograph reproduced from Sam Hood Home and Away Collection at courtesy of State Library of NSW—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credit

Photo: State Library of NSW.

Image



Caption

This brochure tempted thousands to enjoy the delights of Clifton Gardens. (Copy of original pamphlet held at Mosman Local History Collection—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credit

Photo: Mosman Local History Collection.

Text

For thousands of years, this was exclusively Borogegel country, but as long ago as 1828, a free settler, Thomas Graham, and wife Elizabeth, established an orchard nearby.

Over more than 150 years, a variety of owners held the land and made improvements, including Captain Edmund Cliffe, a successful whaler, after whom Clifton Gardens is named.

Clifton Gardens Reserve settled into its role as a recreation place long ago and with only a few interruptions, for wartime defence activity, it remains an important place for Sydneysiders.

Sign B

Location	Adjacent to the foreshore walkway at the southwestern end of the reserve.
Size	Surface area approximately equivalent to 400mm x 400mm.
Materials	Full-colour anodised aluminium with anti-graffiti laminate.

Primary Heading **Pleasurable Pastimes**

Image



Caption

The imposing hotel and extensive pleasure grounds at Clifton Gardens in 1909, owned from 1906 by Sydney Ferries Ltd. (Photograph reproduced from Mosman Local Studies Collection—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credit

Photo: Mosman Local Studies Collection.

Image



Caption

Sydney Ferries Ltd built a large circular swimming enclosure at Clifton Gardens and made many other improvements. This scene, from 1909, shows the ferry wharf in the foreground.

Image credit

Photo: State Library of NSW.

Secondary Heading

Bygone days

Text

Clifton Gardens has long been reserved for fun and recreation, from its beginnings in the 1860s as a 'pleasure ground' until today.

Around the time these photos were taken, Sydney Ferries Ltd advertised:

... one of the finest dancing pavilions in the Southern Hemisphere ... Summer houses and small tables in shady nooks ... swings, merry-go-rounds, and shooting galleries are also available.

And in 1906 the *Daily Telegraph* reported:

the baths ... at Clifton Gardens ... are quite different from those built previously in the metropolis. One of the principal improvements to be noted is the marine promenade which encircles the enclosure ... Racing platforms, marble chutes and a diving tower of 50 feet high.

For fifty years, between 1880 and 1930, regular ferry services would deliver people and supplies to the hotel with hoards of picnickers arriving for a fun day in the sun.

Sign C

Location Adjacent to the foreshore walkway, approximately 60 metres from the reserve's southwestern boundary.

Size Surface area approximately equivalent to 400mm x 400mm.

Materials Full-colour anodised aluminium with anti-graffiti laminate.

Primary Heading **Big day out**

Image



Caption These young girls are enjoying ice cream at the 1935 Paper Mills Annual Picnic.

Image



Caption Children revelling in the water at Clifton Gardens Reserve—an opportunity not to be missed in the 1930s. (Original image and permissions for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credits Photos: State Library of NSW.

Text

For many years until the early 1930s, hundreds of workers, together with their families, congregated at Clifton Gardens for annual picnic days. Sponsored either by their employer or their union, a picnic day would have been long looked forward to. The Water Board, Australian Paper Mills and the Storeman and Packers Union were some of many organisations who treated families to a great day out.

As the decade progressed, the Harbour Bridge opened and more and more families bought cars. People ventured further afield for their recreation and visits to ocean beaches became more popular.

Sign D

Location	On the wharf, about 30 metres from the junction with the beach, oriented west (oriented towards the shore).
Size	Surface area approximately equivalent to 400mm x 400mm.
Materials	Full-colour anodised aluminium with anti-graffiti laminate.
Primary Heading	Fun by the Harbour

Image



Caption

Safety in numbers—it's easy to see the popularity of Clifton Gardens. Here, in a photo from 1934, hundreds of children, overseen by their parents, take to the sea. (Note: image will need to be cropped to avoid confusion with double exposure) (Photograph reproduced from Sam Hood Home and Away Collection, State Library of NSW—actual image and permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image



Caption

Tomfoolery on the beach captured by a camera in 1934. (Photograph reproduced from Sam Hood Home and Away Collection, State Library of NSW—actual image and permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credits

Photo: State Library of NSW.

Secondary Heading

Skylarking all day long

Text

For many years harbour-side pleasure grounds were a favourite destination for Sydneysiders. There was Fairy Bower at Manly, Fairy Land on Lane Cove River and others at Nielson and Parsley Bays on the eastern shore—for a time, Clifton Gardens was known as Dixieland. People set off by harbour ferry for a full day outing.

With refreshment rooms, dancing pavilions and plenty of open space for races and games, they were popular with families, courting couples and others.

Being located so close to a licenced hotel made Clifton Gardens Reserve especially popular from the early days—although sometimes it lead to complaints about rowdy visitors from the locals.

Sign E

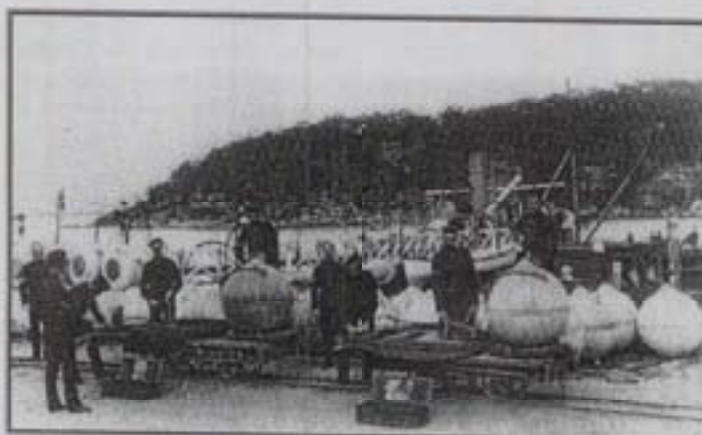
Location Adjacent to the foreshore walkway, approximately 60 metres from the reserve's northeastern boundary.

Size Surface area approximately equivalent to 400mm x 400mm.

Materials Full-colour anodised aluminium with anti-graffiti laminate.

Primary Heading **Defending Sydney**

Images



Caption Submarine Mines being prepared to protect Sydney Harbour in 1890 at Chowder Bay (Photograph reproduced from Joan Lawrence's *Pictorial History: Lavender Bay to The Spit* p 101.—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image credit Photo: TBA

Image



Caption The Army's extensive fleet of 40-foot vessels anchored in Chowder Bay in 1944. (Photograph reproduced from Australian War Memorial Collection. Image number 084057—permission for public use yet to be sought.)

Image



Caption

Bayonet practice for troops of the 4th Water Transport Company at Clifton Gardens Reserve in 1943. (Photograph reproduced from Australian War Memorial Collection. Image number 055262—Permission for public use yet to be sought.).

Image credits

Photos: Australian War Memorial Collection.

Secondary Heading

Clifton Gardens plays a role in Defence

Text

Chowder Bay and the headlands to its north and south have long been important for Sydney's defence.

In the early days, Clifton Gardens Reserve and Chowder Bay hosted activities of the Submarine Miners. During World War II, the Australian Water Transport Group was stationed here. Many boats were anchored in the bay and many men trained and camped on the reserve.

6.2 Ongoing Responsibilities

The location of interpretive media is identified in Figure 5.1. The scale and design of the signs will be confirmed by Council staff in collaboration with Godden Mackay Logan. Colour anodised aluminium signs are proposed for their robustness and longevity. Signs will be designed in simple modern format and font, utilising text and photographs detailed above. A specialist sign manufacturer will prepare the specification and tender documents for the metal fabrication.

6.2.1 Conservation Management Issues

Archaeological Remains

All work on the site should be undertaken in the knowledge that there may be extensive archaeological remains. Before works are actioned, it is important to assess and mediate the impacts on the archaeology.

Continuing Integration of Interpretation

In order to build on community understanding of the changing nature of Clifton Gardens Reserve over the last few centuries, it is important to commit to interpreting the values of the Reserve into the future. Where and whenever new or redevelopment work is undertaken, Council planners should consider every opportunity to reinforce and interpret the historic values of the site.

Whenever public amenity works are planned for Clifton Gardens Reserve, the potential for interpretive elements should be considered.

Collaborative Management of Extended Walking Track

There are a variety of agencies, including the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, NSW National Parks and Wildlife and several municipal councils, who may need to collaborate on an overall planning process for a through-walk as described. Planning would include track consistency, marking and marketing but it would also need to deliver a thematic interpretive framework for the entire walk. Ideally, themes would be interpreted along the walk where they are most appropriate without unwarranted repetition.

6.2.2 Implementation of Interpretation Plan and Design Study

Tasks	To be carried out by
Implementation	
Confirm texts.	Mosman Council staff, with continuing involvement of an experienced heritage interpreter, subject to a separate commission.
Confirm illustrations and seek permission for use and copyright clearances if necessary.	Mosman Council staff, with continuing involvement of an experienced heritage interpreter, subject to a separate commission.
Draft interpretive media including signs, mountings, landscape elements.	Mosman Council staff, with continuing involvement of design consultants and experienced heritage interpreter, subject to a separate commission.
Evaluate sign design by testing on audience members prior to completion of designs.	Mosman Council staff, with continuing involvement of an experienced heritage interpreter, subject to a separate commission.
Confirm sign design and finalise the design to production ready stage.	Mosman Council staff, with continuing involvement of design consultants and an experienced heritage interpreter, subject to a separate commission.
Production of interpretive media including signs, mountings and landscape elements.	Mosman Council staff, with continuing involvement of sign fabricator or similar and an experienced heritage interpreter, subject to a separate commission.
Installation of interpretive media including signs, mountings and landscape elements.	Mosman Council staff or contractors, subject to a separate commission.

6.2.3 Maintenance Plan

A schedule of maintenance for the interpretive media should be integrated into Council's regular maintenance program for Clifton Gardens Reserve. Maintenance of new interpretive installations and other media should ensure for:

- regular visual checking of the interpretation media for damage and deterioration;
- regular cleaning of the media; and
- continue to factor in potential archaeological investigation in all works.

Review will be necessary after five years because the sign panels will have faded and be outmoded. It will provide an opportunity to present and interpret more of the story.

6.2.4 Interpretation Evaluation and Review Process

This Interpretation Plan and Design Study is intended to be practical and achievable. During development all designs should be tested with formative evaluation techniques by representative members of the audience, council staff and interpretation experts to ensure successful communication.

Once interpretive media are installed they should be reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness, this can be achieved by small informal but well-conceived visitor survey. This should include both Mosman locals and weekend visitors and seek to establish their level of understanding about the history of the Reserve.

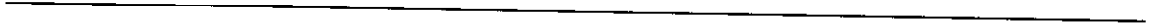
7.0 **Appendices**

Appendix A

State Heritage Inventory Form for Clifton Gardens Reserve

Appendix B

Approximate Costings to Interpret Clifton Gardens Reserve



Appendix A

State Heritage Inventory Form for Clifton Gardens Reserve



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ITEM DETAILS					
Name of Item	Clifton Gardens Reserve				
Other Name/s Former Name/s	Clifton Hotel, Marine Hotel, Dixiland				
Item type (if known)	Landscape				
Item group (if known)	NA				
Item category (if known)	NA				
Area, Group, or Collection Name	NA				
Street number	NA				
Street name	Morella Road				
Suburb/town	Mosman	Postcode		2088	
Local Government Area/s	Mosman Council				
Property description	DP No.	Area (ha)	Community Land Category	Ownership	
	Unmade Burrawong Ave	0.055 ha	Unmade Burrawong Ave	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 1 DP 456197	0.041 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 2 DP 456197	0.039 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 3 DP 456197	0.034 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 4 DP 456197	0.039 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 5 DP 456197	0.040 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 6 DP 456197	0.047 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 7 DP 660931	0.052 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot 1 DP 520539	0.014 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Lot A DP 390884	0.070 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	Mosman Municipal Council	
	Drainage channel	0.0865 ha	Park	PlanningNSW	
	Drainage channel	0.065 ha	Crown Land Unreserved	DLWC	
	Part Lot 1 DP 308403	0.503 ha	Natural Area (Bushland)	PlanningNSW	
	Part Lot 1 DP 308403	1.865 ha	Park	PlanningNSW	
	Lot 1 DP 231596	0.728 ha	Park		
	Lot 800 DP 752067	0.092 ha	Crown Land (Public Recreation)	DLWC, on behalf of Crown	
	Lot 845 DP 752067	0.017 ha	Crown Land (Public Recreation)	DLWC, on behalf of Crown	
	Lot 846 DP 752067	1.285 ha	Crown Land (Public Recreation)	DLWC, on behalf of Crown	
	Reclaimed Land	0.0852 ha	Crown Land Unreserved	DLWC	
	Total Area:	5.158 ha			
Location — Lat/long	Latitude	NA		Longitude	NA
Location — AMG (if no street address)	Zone	NA	Easting	NA	Northing NA
Owner	The site comprises seventeen parcels of land, variously owned by, Mosman Municipal Council and the Department of Infrastructure Planning & Natural Resources (DIPNR) (DIPNR portion is held in Crown Reserve Trust managed by Mosman Municipal Council) (see above). The bathing enclosure and wharf are owned by NSW Waterways and leased to Mosman Municipal Council.				



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Current use	Public recreation reserve	
Former Use	1830s established as a residence with farming activities and fishery. Recreation reserve privately owned and operated from 1860s. Public reserve since 1970.	
Statement of significance	<p>Clifton Gardens Reserve is historically significant as one of a number of 'pleasure grounds' located on Sydney Harbour dating from the late nineteenth century. Harbourside pleasure grounds are important places in the development of Sydney and represent many historical trends, including the establishment of ferry transport, the settlement and development of the harbour foreshore areas and the changing focus from passive leisure to public bathing. The subsequent decline of the harbour resorts represents the growing popularity of tram travel, car transport and surf beaches.</p> <p>Clifton Gardens is noteworthy as one the largest recreational reserves on Sydney Harbour, and as a site that has remained a recreational reserve since 1860 and continues to be used as such today. Elements on the site dating from the period of use as a 'pleasure ground' include the cultural plantings, roads, steps and paths, and potential archaeological remains. However, the significance of the site is reduced by the lack of above-ground physical building and other remains related to its 'pleasure ground' period of use.</p> <p>As a designed landscape, the site has the distinctive aesthetic characteristics of nineteenth-century harbourside recreational spaces including a sand beach, cultural plantings, a jetty and netted bathing area. While the site does have landmark and scenic qualities, these have been impacted by the demolition of the once-extensive facilities associated with the 'pleasure ground' and the replacement with the existing facilities dating from the late 1960s.</p> <p>As a large recreation space active since the 1860s, the site can be seen to have strong or special associations with the people of Sydney generally, and particularly to the people of Mosman. The leisure activities undertaken on the site, including bathing in the harbour, can be seen to have significance beyond amenity and to be significant to the community's sense of place.</p> <p>The site has identified archaeological potential in relation to remains of the early pleasure ground structures and the hotel once on this site that may contribute to an understanding of the use of this class of place in the nineteenth century. Two Aboriginal archaeological sites have been identified on the site. There is also potential that the site may contain deposits at depths relating to pre-European environment and topography, Aboriginal occupation and early environmental modifications of the land by the first European occupants of the area.</p> <p>Clifton Gardens Reserve is representative of a class of sites that provided formalised leisure pursuits in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Sydney and is part of a group of sites which collectively illustrate attitudes to leisure, the growing focus on bathing as a recreational and sporting pursuit and the beginnings of the creation of Australia's 'beach culture'.</p>	
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION		
Designer	Unknown	
Builder/ maker	Unknown	
Physical Description	<p>Clifton Garden Reserve is a flat area of land situated between two steep ridges, located to the north and west, and bounded on the southeastern side by the foreshore of Sydney Harbour, and Chowder Bay.</p> <p>The northern ridge is part of Sydney Harbour National Park and is covered with dense native vegetation. To the east of this ridge, at the waterfront, is the Former Army Maritime School, currently the offices of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. A natural stream, now canalised, runs along the northern boundary of the Reserve dividing it from the wooded ridge of the Sydney Harbour National Park.</p> <p>The northwestern area of the site tapers into a narrow channel between the two ridges. Approximately</p>	



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	<p>twenty percent of the site is inaccessible bushland, affected by weed infestation, poor drainage and dieback, and is linked to the more extensive vegetative body of Sydney Harbour National Park.</p> <p>The ridge to the southwest is also densely treed, but consists of residential development, having been subdivided in 1911 and 1919. This southwestern area of the Reserve, bounded by Morella Road, represents the main access point to the site, where the road winds down the steep hill to the car parking area and pedestrian paths. This road layout, and the associated areas of flat quarried rock, are the only visible remains of the Marine Hotel that once dominated the site, but was demolished in 1967. The far southern corner of the site links up with the Sydney Harbour National Park and the pedestrian path south to Taronga Zoo.</p> <p>The foreshore area of the reserve is extensive and conducive to swimming with a wide flat sandy shore line. A sandstone block retaining wall stabilises the sand and the grassed edge of the reserve. The timber and concrete jetty extends from the centre of the foreshore area, providing deep-water access to the Reserve. An arm extends from the wharf to the west with shark netting attached to piers, providing an informal netted swimming enclosure. The existing jetty and bathing enclosure date from the late 1960s. An earlier jetty on the site was located on the southern edge of the bay, the path that linked it to the reserve remains and is now part of the Sydney Harbour foreshore walking track.</p> <p>Although largely open landscape, the built elements within the reserve generally date from the late 1960s and 1970s, when Council took over the site as a recreation facility. Built elements include the masonry, flat roofed amenities block, situated towards the northern boundary of the site. The amenities block consists of three volumes constructed in one line, housing male and female toilets and shower areas. Adjacent, to the east, is a playground area with a sand pit, treated-pine play fort and slide. Other facilities include a hard court with a basketball hoop located to the west of the amenities block.</p> <p>At the centre of the Reserve, facing the foreshore, is a large paved area shaded by mature trees. The area of paving seems to correlate with the former footprint of the 1885 pavilion. There are several picnic tables and benches of concrete and timber, typical of municipal furniture of the late 1960s and 1970s.</p> <p>The only other structure in the vicinity is Sewage Pumping Station No. 54, which is owned by Sydney Water and located just outside the Reserve boundary. The ornate brick building was constructed in the 1920s to serve the northern sewer. The pumping station is believed to be the only one of its kind in the locality, however, it is typical of other such structures found elsewhere. A maintenance road leads from the car park to the pumping station, forming the main pedestrian route across the reserve. The road is of the same material as the central paved area.</p> <p>At the southwest of the site are pedestrian steps cut from the sandstone cliff face that lead from the car park to the upper level of Morella Road. At the point where Morella Road makes a hairpin turn is a bus turning area and pedestrian viewing point with a park bench. The steps are thought to date from the 1870s and were part of the access route to the Marine Hotel.</p> <p>The reserve contains many mature species of cultural plantings that appear to date from the early twentieth century. These include the avenues of Coral Trees lining the canal and Canary Date Palms closer to the foreshore, plus mature plantings around the car park and shading the central paved area.</p> <p>The areas of the site adjacent to the Sydney Harbour National Park are thought to contain significant areas of native vegetation, including remnant areas of Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest with sub-communities of tall open-forest to open-forest and closed-forest, variously characterised by Sydney red gum and lillypilly (detailed landscape assessment in P&B, Management Framework, March 2003). These sub-communities are rare in Mosman. The bushland also provides fauna habitat, with the potential to provide habitat to two vulnerable species listed in Schedule 2 of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>; the red-crowned toadlet and the powerful owl, however, much of the native bushland on the site is weed-infested with lantana, glossy privet and morning glory.</p>
Physical condition and Archaeological	Two Aboriginal sites in Clifton Garden Reserve are included on the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Aboriginal Sites Register. A further study of the Aboriginal heritage of the Mosman area has



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potential	<p>recently been undertaken and further areas of Aboriginal heritage significance may emerge.¹</p> <p>An Archaeological Assessment of the site was conducted in 1998 by Godden Mackay Logan. The study concluded that the site had some archaeological research potential in relation to the structures and use of the former pleasure grounds, specifically the location of the former Marine Hotel and the former access track.</p>				
Construction years	Start year	1870	Finish year	1970s	Circa <input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	<p>The first pleasure ground operated on the site from 1863. It is not known if any structures were added to the site associated with this use.</p> <p>The Clifton Hotel was constructed on the site in 1870. The larger forty-room Marine Hotel was constructed in 1879, possibly by enlarging the earlier building. The area was at this time further developed as a pleasure ground. Structures added included the southern wharf and weatherboard dancing pavilion (built 1885), neither of which remain above ground. Plans and historical images from the period show various pavilions, luncheon rooms and change sheds dotting the site. Reportedly, a skating rink was constructed on the site in 1888.</p> <p>The only remnant above ground structures from the period are the alignment of Morella Road, which originally lead to the wharf, and the pedestrian paths and steps off Morella Road.</p> <p>In 1906 Sydney Ferries Ltd purchased the site and constructed the circular swimming enclosure and associated dressing rooms, and the tramway that connected the southern jetty with the hotel. There are no visible remains of these elements.</p> <p>The pavilion to the west of the site shown on the 1923 survey as 'Dixieland' was presumably built at about the same time but an exact date of construction is not known.</p> <p>The Sewage Pumping Station No. 54, located just outside the northeastern boundary of the site, was constructed in the 1920s.</p> <p>A centrally-located deep-water wharf was constructed on the site some time around the 1930s, and the circular bathing enclosure was modified to link with this element. It is thought that the seawall, originally timber, was, sometime after 1930, replaced with sandstone block.</p> <p>The existing structures date from around the 1970s, including the jetty, bathing enclosure, seawall and amenities.</p> <p>Elements remaining from earlier periods include vegetation, endemic and cultural, and Morella Road and the adjacent steps, and the potential for archaeological remains.</p>				
Further comments	N/A				

HISTORY

Historical notes	<p>Original Inhabitants</p> <p>Two days after the First Fleet had anchored in Sydney Cove, Captain Hunter, using a longboat, began a detailed survey of the harbour. He began by going to what was to become Mosman.² At a landing place, probably known to the inhabitants as Koree, and later as Chowder Bay, Lieutenant William Bradley records:</p> <p><i>we observed some women at the place the men came down from, they would not come near us, but peep'd from behind the rocks and trees; when the Boats put off, the Men began dancing and laughing and when we were far enough off to bring the place the Women were at in sight, they held their arms extended over their heads, got on their legs and danced till we were some distance, then followed us upon the rocks as far as the boats went along that shore.³</i></p> <p>Gavin Souter, in his history of Mosman, argues that these people probably referred to themselves as the Borogegel, a sub-group of what researchers describe as the Kuringgai language group.⁴</p> <p>Numerous sites and artefacts of Aboriginal occupation remain in Mosman, primarily in the form of shell middens on undeveloped sections of foreshores, with some rock engravings and art sites in the parks.</p>
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and reserves. The documentary evidence from the nineteenth century suggests that engravings and art sites were once scattered throughout the area, but that most of these disappeared during the suburban expansion of the early twentieth century.

The documentary evidence of the Aboriginals of the North Shore, limited though it is, is far more extensive than the surviving physical evidence. Although limited physical evidence remains of Aboriginal people at Clifton Gardens Reserve, historical records indicated that Aboriginal people hunted and camped here. Some sites have been identified, but it is also possible that further physical evidence of the Aboriginal use of the site remains, that has not yet been identified.

Early European Settlers

The name Chowder Bay appears to be a result of the presence of North American whalers early in the nineteenth century, who apparently made the New England dish clam chowder from the rock oysters that were plentiful on the shores of the bay.

The fertility of the valley at the head of Chowder Bay was recognised in 1828 by Thomas Graham.⁹ Graham was a free settler employed as assistant to the Government Botanist, Mr Fraser. He applied for a grant in 1828 at Chowder Bay to establish himself as a market gardener and nurseryman.¹⁰ RS Turrock in his *Pictorial History of Mosman* states that in 1829 the government Gazette reported that 'a fishery on a small scale has been established at Chowder Bay'.¹¹ It would appear that Graham established this fishery. However, Graham's fifteen acres did not include the beach, which was reserved for access to other land in the valley.

Graham, with the help of his wife Elizabeth and his employer, Mr Fraser, built a house and planted more than four acres, with such trees as apricot, peach, plum, olive, pear, apple, cherry, nectarine, greengage and mulberry.¹² The property was sold in June 1832 for £326 after Graham had become insolvent. A newspaper advertisement for the property described it as a 'choice garden house and cellars ... 3/4 of an hours drive of Sydney or four miles by water carriage'.¹³ Gavin Souter surmises that, if the advertisement was correct, there must have been a vehicular track from Chowder Bay to a track that already existed running between Blues Point and Shell Cove.

The fifteen acres were purchased by Captain Edmund Cliffe, who was the former owner of a whaler called the *Lady Wellington*.¹⁴ Cliffe owned forty-one acres south of Graham's land. He was granted this land in 1835, thus increasing his total holding to fifty-six acres. Turrock states that Cliffe built himself a home on his land, which he named Cliffeon. However, Souter claims that Samuel Ashmore, who purchased the fifty-six acre property for £500 after the death of Cliffe in 1837, named the property Cliffeon. It seems more probable that it was Cliffe who named the property Cliffeon.

After Ashmore's death in 1858, a Sydney merchant named Joseph Westbrook purchased Cliffeon for £1160 and built what one newspaper described as a 'handsome and commodious three-storey building of brick and stone with cedar fittings and having an observatory and bakery overlooking the bay'.¹⁵ It is presumed that this house was later demolished, and it is not known where it was located.

The previously residential and rural character of the site changed in 1863 when CF Hemmington, proprietor of a pleasure ground named Fairy Bower at Marly, opened a similar enterprise named Fairyland on part of Cliffeon. The harbourside site allowed water access and on specific 'excursion days' this establishment was served by the steamer *Nautilus*.¹⁶ However, it wasn't until the 1870s that the area became a popular recreational retreat.

The Clifton Hotel and the Era of Pleasure Gardens

Picnic grounds and pleasure resorts had existed on the harbour for some time, particularly on the eastern shores. These harbourside picnic grounds, refreshment rooms and dance halls were a feature of Sydney's life until the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 and for some time after.

Owing to their remoteness, the harbour areas of the North Shore had tended to remain undeveloped for industrial activity. By mid-century the major waterfront activity in Mosman was public recreation in harbourside reserves. The North Shore's pleasure gardens and dance halls were popular excursion



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destinations, usually visited as part of the weekend excursion trips run by the harbour ferry companies.

The first area on the North Shore established as a recreation pleasure garden was Cremorne Gardens, which opened for business under that name in 1856. It was situated on twenty-two acres of land owned by prominent North Shore developer, James Milson, at Robertsons Point. Cremorne Gardens set a commercial example (which others followed) at several sites around the coast of Mosman. Pleasure grounds including Ashton Park, set on 142 acres at Bradleys Head, and Rosherville Reserve at Chinaman's Beach followed. These establishments were serviced by regular ferry services to the North Shore, which had begun during the 1860s.

In 1871, Duncan Butters built the Clifton Hotel and was granted a publican's licence the following year. This was one of the first two licensed hotels in Mosman, the other being the Athol Gardens Hotel, located at Ashton Park, licensed at the same time as the Clifton Hotel.²³ The establishment of a hotel was to improve the popularity of Clifton Gardens as a recreation area greatly.

In 1879, David Thomson purchased the Clifton Gardens Estate. Thompson enlarged the Clifton Arms Hotel and renamed it the Marine Hotel. He also built a wharf and a dancing pavilion.²⁴ By the 1870s, the 'pleasure industry' on the North Shore had become quite large and extended to Hunters Bay, Shell Cove, Athol Bay and Pearl Bay. Pleasure gardens established at these places attracted Sydneysiders willing to enjoy the walking paths, food, music, dancing and regular 'masked balls' offered by these establishments.²⁵ Swimming was not a feature of the site's use until the early 1900s, when laws banning bathing were progressively rescinded.²⁶

Clifton Gardens attracted complaints from many residents who were concerned about rowdy behaviour by some of the visitors to the area. As a result, in 1882, Thompson's licence was amended to disallow music and dancing. The police at the time commented that Thompson had been fined several times for resisting them on the premises and that dancing was the cause of drunkenness, immorality and disorderly conduct at Chowder Bay.²⁷

Thompson regained dancing privileges and adopted a 'no toughs' policy. In 1885, he reopened the hotel as a three-storey, forty-room establishment named the Chowder Bay Marine Hotel, providing accommodation 'unsurpassed in the Southern Hemisphere'.²⁸ The dancing pavilion built by Thompson was advertised as the largest and best-ventilated of its kind in the Australian colonies. Thompson also imported an English bathing machine that lowered a shark-proof frame into the water around the swimmer, and opened a skating rink in 1888. There were also four circular running tracks at Clifton that appear to have been popular well into the 1930s for post-picnic races.²⁹

Thompson died in 1900 and in 1906 the hotel and pleasure grounds were purchased by Sydney Ferries Limited. The company built a large circular swimming enclosure and a boat shed, which were noted to be 'the finest in the state'.³⁰ They also added a tramway from the wharf to the hotel for the conveyance of supplies. The hotel was, at this time, renamed the Clifton Gardens Hotel.

Prior to this purchase of the pleasure gardens, the area of Cliffe's original estate had begun to be subdivided for sale for residential development. The gradual subdivision and sale of the area surrounding the pleasure gardens continued during the early years of the twentieth century.

Harbourside resorts flourished in the interwar years. In 1905, Sydney Ferries Ltd published a small booklet outlining the recreational facilities offered by the company. It included the following about Clifton Gardens:

... one of the finest dancing pavilions in the Southern Hemisphere. Summer houses and small tables in shady nooks have been erected capable of accommodating 1,000 people. Swings, merry-go-rounds, and shooting galleries are also available to the public ... frontage to Chowder Bay of nearly 1,000 feet, with a fine sandy beach, where children can play in safety ... Steamers ply daily from No. 1 jetty, Circular Quay, ... and special steamers for Sunday-school picnics and other excursions can be chartered from Sydney Ferries, Limited, at any time.³¹

On November 1st, 1906 the Daily Telegraph reported that:



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the baths now being erected for the Sydney Ferries Limited at Clifton Gardens ... are quite different from those built previously in the metropolis. One of the principal improvements to be noted is the marine promenade which encircles the enclosure ... Racing platforms, marble chutes and a diving tower of 50 feet high are among the accessories of the enclosure ... Platforms for bathers will be on a lower level, while the dressing rooms will be situated in the pavilion at the back of the oval and above them will an extensive refreshment gallery and grandstand. ^{xxx}

A 1913 ferry guide proclaimed that Clifton Gardens was the most extensive pleasure ground in Australia. ^{xxx} During the period, Clifton Gardens was a frequent setting for union picnics and groups such as Water Board employees, butchers and bank employees who held their annual picnics at the gardens. ^{xxx}

During the 1920s, a 'rough element' was causing trouble at Clifton Gardens. This complaint seems to have been a recurring theme throughout the history of the gardens. It was also during the 1920s that the Sewerage Pumping Station was constructed at the Gardens to serve the northern sewer, providing adequate civil infrastructure to the Mosman district.

Other rivals for the recreation time of Sydneysiders were Manly, the largest of the harbourside resorts, and the ocean beaches of Coogee and Bondi. Tram networks allowed large numbers of visitors easy access these ocean resorts. By the mid-thirties, fourteen million passengers travelled to Bondi each year. ^{xxx} As the decade progressed, the increasing popularity of cars and the growing patronage of surf beaches began to undermine the harbourside resorts. For the North Shore harbour resorts, the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge had further reduced visitation by reducing ferry travel generally. Advertisements for Clifton Gardens in the mid-thirties had changed drastically and stressed features including 'ample garage accommodation' and 'twelve minutes by car from the City via Harbour Bridge'. ^{xxx}

Wartime Use of the Site

Chowder Bay and the headlands that define it, to the northeast of Clifton Gardens, have been of strategic defence importance throughout the history of Sydney. Defence activity began in 1803 when a gun battery was installed on Georges Head. The Georges Head Chowder Bay Military Establishments were progressively added to throughout the nineteenth century specifically for submarine mining activities. The Chowder Bay site is recognised as having national significance for the contribution it makes to the history of the Australian Military and the defence of Port Jackson.

During World War II Clifton was also utilised for defence activities with the Australian Water Transport Group headquarters located there. This included the anchorage in the bay of the army's extensive fleet of 40ft vessels. Images from the period record training activities, accommodation of troops in tents pitched on the wide flat areas of Clifton Gardens and troops boarding ships from the long jetty.

Move Towards Unified Harbour Foreshore Lands

In 1953, Mosman Council and the Cumberland County Council jointly purchased the flat land behind Clifton Gardens beach from an owner who had been planning residential development there. ^{xxx} In 1956, the wooden pavilion was destroyed by fire, and by the mid-1960s all the resort structures at the gardens had been demolished except the shark-proof swimming pool. In 1965, the hotel closed and was demolished the following year. The owner had plans for the residential development of the site, but Council refused and the land was purchased for inclusion into the Clifton Gardens Reserve.

In the 1970s Clifton Reserve was re-landscaped, and virtually all the remaining pleasure-ground era structures were demolished. Mosman Council built a new jetty, re-located the bathing enclosure and repaired the sea wall. ^{xxx} While only the cultural plantings from the pleasure ground period remain on the site, the primary use remains recreational, representing the continuation of over a century of sustained use.

Since 1970 the Sydney Harbour National Park has been forming through the amalgamation of various parcels of government land along the southern side of Mosman, as well as other parts of the harbour foreshore and islands. Mosman Council has also, since World War II, acquired foreshore land for the



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creation of public recreation areas. The current evolution of the adjacent Chowder Bay Georges Heights site from Defence use to public ownership will facilitate the long-term viability and importance of Clifton Gardens within the North Shore's harbour foreshore lands.

Comparative Analysis

Clifton Gardens represents two phases in the history of harbour pleasure gardens: the late nineteenth century pleasure gardens that utilised the harbour as an important part of the setting for largely land-based recreation activities, and the early to mid-twentieth century places that had bathing as a key element of the recreation experience. Athol Hall within Ashton Gardens on Bradleys Head (now Sydney Harbour National Park) represents a tangible example of this period. As noted above, other pleasure gardens places once existed at Hunters Bay, Shell Cove, Cremorne Gardens and Pearl Bay in the North Sydney area. The former Como Pleasure Grounds, Cremona Road, Como, are protected as a local heritage item within the Sutherland LGA. The Mortlake Botanical Gardens provided pleasure grounds near the Parramatta River from the 1880s.

Examples of the early twentieth century places with buildings and infrastructure associated with bathing remaining include Manly Wharf, Nielsen Park, Sydney Harbour National Park, Fairyland in Lane Cove National Park, the Coogee Palace Aquarium and Wylie's Baths at Coogee, the Bondi Pavilion, archaeological remains and interpretation of the Domain Baths near the refurbished Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool. While Clifton Gardens has high historical significance for association with both of these phases, archaeological potential and a continuity of use, it does not retain tangible, visible evidence of the nineteenth and early twentieth century uses to any greater extent than these comparative places.

Endnotes

- ⁱ Aboriginal Heritage Study of the Mosman Local Government Area for NSW NPWS, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Mosman Council and Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council August 2004
- ⁱⁱ Souter, G *Mosman – A History*, Melbourne University Press, 1994, p 5.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Quoted in *ibid*, p 7.
- ^{iv} *ibid*, p 3.
- ^v *ibid*, p 36.
- ^{vi} *ibid*.
- ^{vii} Turrock, RS *A Pictorial History of Mosman*, p 13.
- ^{viii} Souter, G *op cit*, p 36.
- ^{ix} Quoted in *ibid*.
- ^x *ibid*.
- ^{xi} *ibid*, p 51.
- ^{xii} *ibid*, p 65.
- ^{xiii} *ibid*.
- ^{xiv} Presumably a wharf had existed on the site previously.
- ^{xv} Godden Mackay, Sydney and Middle Harbours Heritage Study, 1991.
- ^{xvi} Spearritt, P 1978, *Sydney Since the Twenties*, Hale and Iremonger, p 236.
- ^{xvii} Souter, G *op cit*, p 65.
- ^{xviii} *ibid*, p 66.
- ^{xix} *ibid*.
- ^{xx} Spearritt, P *op cit*, p 236.
- ^{xxi} Booklet published by Sydney Ferries Ltd in 1905.
- ^{xxii} Quoted in PSB, *Management Framework*, 2003, referenced as Allan 1991, p 135.
- ^{xxiii} G Souter, *op cit*, p 66.
- ^{xxiv} Spearritt, P *op cit*, p 237.
- ^{xxv} *ibid*, p 239.
- ^{xxvi} *ibid*, p 240.
- ^{xxvii} Souter, G *op cit*, p 291.
- ^{xxviii} *ibid*.



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THEMES	
National historical theme	<p>3.8 Moving goods and people</p> <p>3.8.3 Developing harbour facilities</p> <p>4.2 Supplying urban services (transport)</p> <p>8.1 Organising recreation</p> <p>8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens</p> <p>8.2 Going to the beach</p>
State historical theme	<p>Leisure</p> <p>Social Institutions</p> <p>Sport</p> <p>Transport</p>

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	<p>Historical significance SHR criteria (a)</p> <p>The Clifton Gardens Reserve is important for representing the evolution of notions of recreation and leisure in Sydney for over a century. Clifton Gardens Reserve is one of a number of pleasure grounds that developed in the later nineteenth century on Sydney Harbour. The historical use of Clifton Gardens Reserve is an example of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century public leisure and beach pursuits on a grand scale within a harbour setting; firstly as a pleasure garden and after bathing became both legal and popular in the early twentieth century a popular place for swimming within an enclosure. At one time, the site contained bathing facilities that were considered the largest and best in the state.</p> <p>However, the ability to appreciate the historic significance of the site is reduced by the lack of above-ground physical remains or evidence related to the pleasure ground period of use.</p> <p>The recreational use of the site since 1860 is an important part of the development and early use of the North Shore of Sydney. The continued use of the site for recreational activities from that time until the present day is also of significance, as it shows a continuity of historical activity.</p>
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	<p>Historical Association SHR criteria (b)</p> <p>While the site is not strongly associated with any historical person, or group of persons of importance in New South Wales's cultural or natural history, the site is associated with persons and groups significant in the history of local area, the development of pleasure grounds and harbour transport; including CF Herrington who established the pleasure gardens in the 1860s, David Thompson who ran the hotel and site for over twenty years and the Sydney Ferries Limited company who owned the site for many years and constructed the large circular swimming enclosure.</p>



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Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	Aesthetic Significance SHR criteria (c) Clifton Gardens Reserve demonstrates distinctive aesthetic attributes characteristic of pleasure grounds of the nineteenth century in its cultural plantings, beach, remains of former jetties, paths and roads. The absence of the built elements dating from the 'pleasure garden' period mean the site has lost its nineteenth and early twentieth-century design integrity, and its landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded. The site does, however, have landmark qualities and is aesthetically distinctive as a large open recreation space with a deep-water jetty and netted swimming enclosure. As a designed recreational landscape with elements dating from the late nineteenth century, the site is of significance aesthetically at a local level.
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	Social Significance SHR criteria (d) Clifton Gardens Reserve does not have strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in New South Wales. Owing to the consistent use of the site as a recreation reserve since the 1860s, the site can be seen to be significant to the people of Sydney generally and, more particularly, to the people of Mosman. The leisure activities undertaken on the site, including bathing in the harbour, can be seen to be significant to the community's sense of place. As a harbourside recreation space, the site is socially significant at a local level.
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	Technical/Research Significance SHR criteria (e) The site has potential to contribute to research regarding material evidence of development of leisure and beach activities during the nineteenth century. The site may contain evidence of the occupation of a late nineteenth-century hotel, luncheon room and beach pavilion, including structural remains, outbuildings, services and some occupation deposits from the nineteenth century to the present. There is also potential that the site may contain deposits at depth relating to pre-European environment and topography, Aboriginal occupation and early environmental modifications of the land by the first European occupants of the area. Archaeological deposits and features, particularly when considered in conjunction with documentary evidence, can provide evidence of material culture that yields information which may be unavailable from documentary sources alone. If present, remains of the hotel on the site would comprise an archaeological resource which might contribute data that leads to a better understanding of the social and cultural history of Sydney, and the Mosman area in particular.
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	Rarity SHR criteria (f) Although rare within the Mosman Council area and has importance within the range of similar places around Sydney Harbour, the site does not possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of New South Wales's cultural or natural history and is not considered rare at a state level. Other places representing similar historic themes in Sydney Harbour retain more tangible evidence including Manly, Nielsen Park, Athol Hall/Ashton Gardens, the Dawn Fraser Pool in Balmain, Coogee Palace Aquarium and the Bondi Bathers Pavilion.



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Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	<p>Representativeness SHR criteria (g)</p> <p>Clifton Gardens Reserve is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a type of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century recreational place, with attributes typical of harbour resorts. Although the site was, at one time, one of the largest of the resorts, similar sites operated concurrently in the immediate area, including Athol Bay, further afield at Manly, across the harbour in the eastern suburbs at Nielsen Park and later at ocean beaches like Coogee and Bondi. As such, the site is part of a group that collectively illustrates harbourside leisure, the growing focus on bathing as a recreational and sporting pursuit and the beginnings of the creation of Australia's 'beach culture'.</p> <p>With the demolition of the structures dating from this period the site has lost a range of characteristics of the type.</p>
Integrity	<p>There is very little evidence related to the significant period of the site's development remaining on the site. The archaeological remains of the Marine Hotel are considered to potentially remain.</p>

HERITAGE LISTINGS

Heritage listing/s	<p>Mosman Local Environmental Plan 1998 (as amended)</p> <p>The following items associated with Clifton Gardens Reserve are listed in Schedule 1 of the Mosman LEP 1998:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clifton Gardens Reserve, Mosman; • Steps to Clifton Gardens Reserve, Morella Road; • Wharf & Pool in Clifton Gardens; and • (Sewage Pumping Station No. 54, is also listed by Sydney Water on its Heritage Act Section 170 Register, but is located outside site area.) <p>Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)</p> <p>Clifton Gardens Reserve forms part of 'Mosman Urban Conservation Area' classified by the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW). The urban conservation area includes Bradleys Head, Chowder Bay and Ashton Park.</p>
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INFORMATION SOURCES

Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Management Framework	Pittendrigh Shinkfield Bruce Pty Ltd	Clifton Gardens Reserve, Mosman	2003	Mosman Council
Archaeological Assessment	Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants	Clifton Gardens Reserve	1998	Mitchell Library
Heritage Study	Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants	Sydney and Middle Harbour Heritage Study	1991	Mosman Council
Book	Gavin Souter	Mosman — A History, Melbourne University Press	1994	Library
Book	RS Tourrock	A Pictorial History of Mosman		Library
Book	Peter Spearitt	Sydney's Century: A History	2000	Library
Book	Peter Spearitt	Sydney Since the Twenties, Hale and Iremonger	1978	Library



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Heritage Study	Australian Museum	(Draft) Aboriginal Heritage Study of the Mosman Local Government Area	2004	Mosman Council
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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	NA
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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Name of study or report	Interpretation Strategy (in preparation)	Year of study or report	2005
Item number in study or report	N/A		
Author of study or report	Godden Mackay Logan		
Inspected by	Rebecca Hawcroft		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Rebecca Hawcroft and Geoff Ashley	Date	January 2005



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IMAGES — 1 per page

Image caption	Clifton Gardens showing hotel and grounds.				
Image year	1909	Image by	NSW Government Printing Office collection	Image copyright holder	State Library of New South Wales (Frame order No. GPO1-11442)

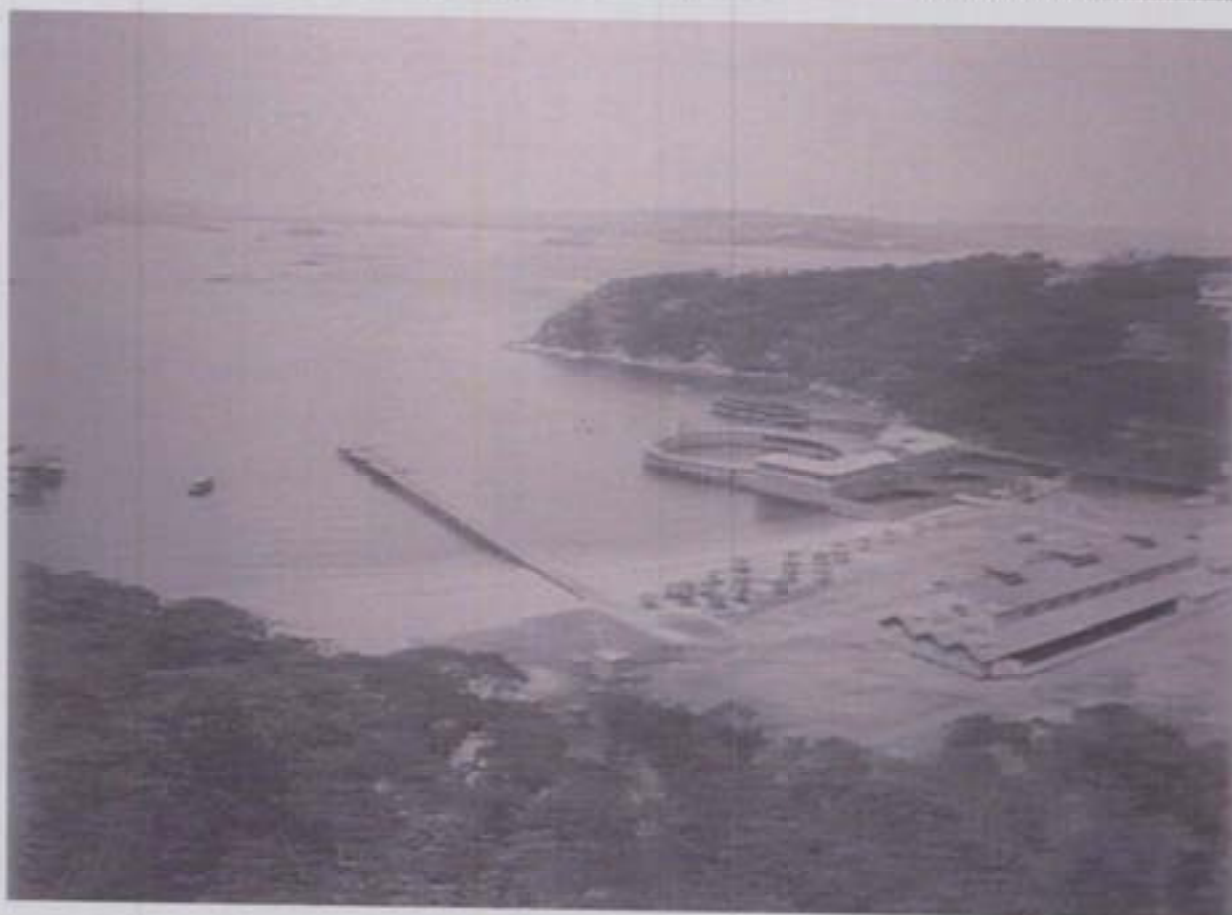




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image caption	Clifton Gardens.				
image year	1924	image by	NSW Government Printing Office collection	image copyright holder	State Library of New South Wales (Frame order No. GPO1-19073)

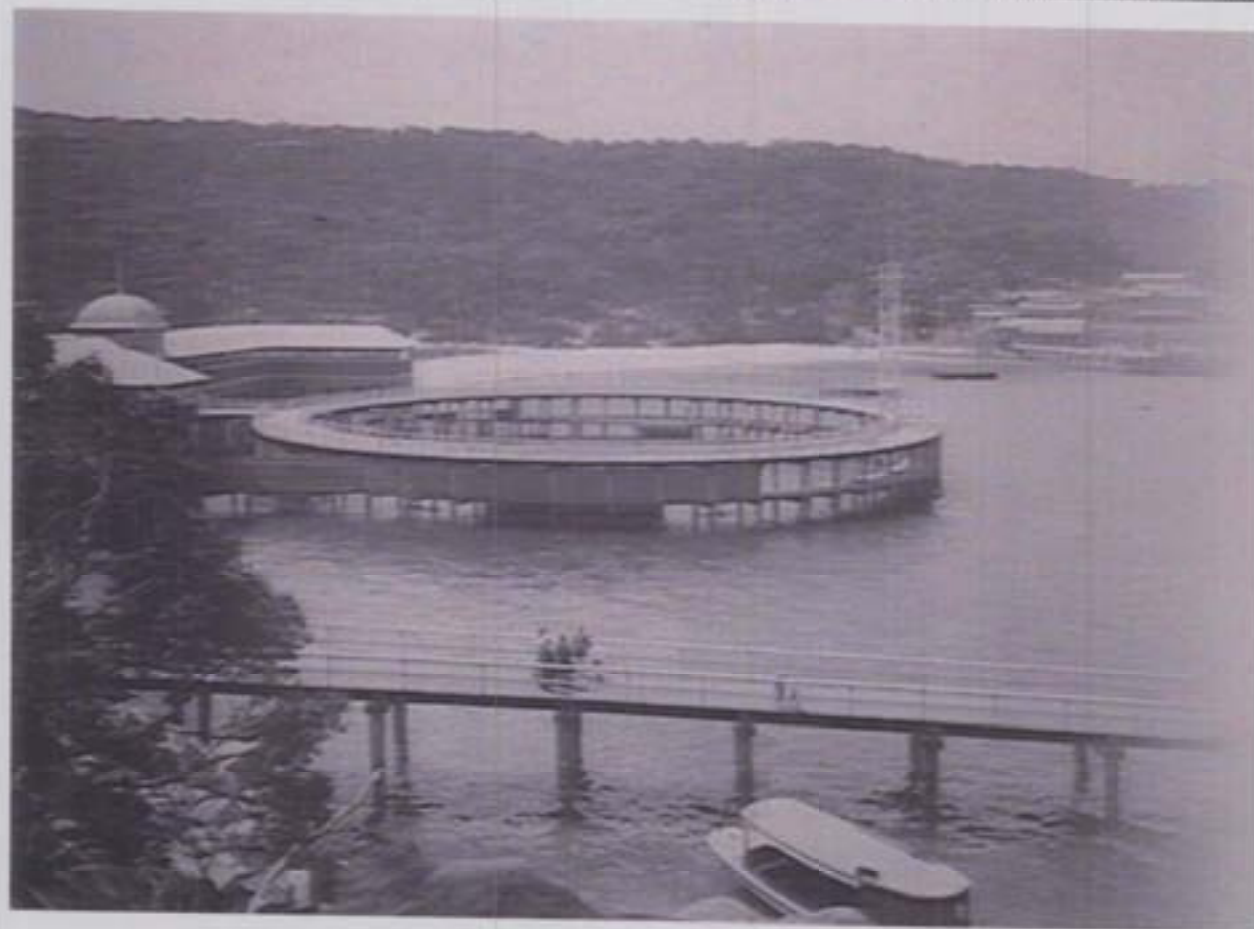




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Image caption	Swimming baths, Clifton Gardens.				
Image year	1909	Image by	NSW Government Printing Office collection	Image copyright holder	State Library of New South Wales (Frame order No. GPO1-11443)





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Image caption	'Big crowd of children and mothers take to the water'.			
Image year	1934	Image by	Sam Hood, Hood Collection	Image copyright holder
		State Library of New South Wales (call No. DG ON4/1006)		





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Image caption	Clifton Gardens Reserve; looking northeast from site of first jetty to existing jetty and swimming enclosure.				
Image year	2004	Image by	Author	Image copyright holder	GML





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Image caption	Clifton Gardens Reserve; looking north across open landscape to amenities block, central paved area and mature cultural plantings visible.				
Image year	2004	Image by	Author	Image copyright holder	GML





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Image caption	Clifton Gardens Reserve; looking south from bus turning area on Morella Road to site of Marine Hotel.				
Image year	2004	Image by	Author	Image copyright holder	GML



Appendix B

Approximate Costings to Interpret Clifton Gardens Reserve

