

HOPETOON GARDENS

Address	520 Glenhuntly Road, Elsterwick
Significance	Local
Construction Dates	1909
Period	Federation
Date Inspected	Mid-2019



Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The public reserve known as Hopetoun Gardens at 520 Glen Huntly Road, Elsterwick, is significant to the City of Glen Eira, especially the paving configuration to the north part of the park, the basalt edging to garden beds and paths, the general form and location of the bandstand (although the raised height and extant fabric is not significant), the low basalt bench (south-east corner) and the pair of 19th century cannons.

The following 19 specimen trees are also significant:

- English Oak (*Quercus robur*),
- Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*),
- Himalayan Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) x8,
- Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*),
- Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*),
- Wild Plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*),
- Bull Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*),

- Cape Bushwillow (*Combretum caffrum*),
- Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwilli*),
- Cape Chestnut (*Calodendron capense*),
- Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), and
- Kurrajong/Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolia*).

Concrete edging dating to the Interwar period is a contributory element.

How is it Significant?

Hopetoun Gardens is of historical, rarity and aesthetic significance to the City of Glen Eira.

Why is it Significant?

Hopetoun Gardens are of historical significance for being established under the impetus of the local Progress Association to serve the burgeoning population in the Elsternwick area, which lacked sufficient park facilities. It has associations with the noted local gardener/designer Thomas W Pockett. (Criterion A)

Hopetoun Gardens possesses healthy specimens of a few uncommon tree species such as the Wild Plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*) and Cape Bushwillow (*Combretum caffrum*), which are native to South Africa, in addition to the Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), a native species uncommon in Victoria. (Criterion B)

Hopetoun Gardens are of aesthetic significance as a public park that retains a landscaping style typical of the Federation period. Designed and curated by noted local gardener, Thomas W Pockett, the garden layout demonstrates formal or symmetrical path configurations as well as informal or meandering pathways. The original path configuration remains substantially intact in the northern half of the site. Lava rock edging dating to the Interwar period has also been retained throughout the gardens. The lawns, flower beds, varied foliage and bandstand contribute to the amenity of the Gardens. (Criterion E)

Description

Hopetoun Gardens is a medium sized (approximately 2 hectare) municipal public park, characterised by a rectangular form and generally flat topography. It integrates formal and informal path configurations and landscaping styles typical of the Federation period, having been officially opened in 1909 to the design of Thomas W Pockett.

The formal path configuration in the north half of the site is original, and revolves around a linear path that forms the central north-south axis of the design. The path is lined with narrow concrete edging likely dating to the Interwar period. A central landscaped feature, consisting of radiating paths and flower beds with substantial lava rock edging, is the focal point of the gardens. Small grassed sections to the outer edges of the flower beds have narrow concrete edging indicative of the Interwar period. Although modified, the central island is consistent with Pockett's original design and representative of a formal planning system.



Central feature and lava rock edging



Pathway configuration about central feature

The linear path terminates mid-way through the site and lacks the concrete edging evident in the north end. A series of meandering pathways also with Interwar period edging, have been added and mirrored about the central axis. The pathways

reference a more informal approach to planning, evident in Pockett's designs for Malvern Gardens and Ardrie Park, where a late 19th century serpentine path system is utilised.



Central section of the gardens – informal curved paths intersect with the central axis



Central section of the gardens – narrow concrete edging to informal paths

Diagonal pathways, with a gentle curve are located in the four corners of the gardens and were likely added during the Interwar period. Narrow concrete edging has been retained in these areas.



Diagonal pathway in the south-west corner of the site



Timber bandstand – note Interwar period concrete edging

The south half of the site, although modified, retains the formal planning arrangement implemented by Pockett. The timber bandstand remains in its original location and aligns with the central axis of Pockett's design. The flower beds that surround the bandstand are lined with concrete edging and date to the Interwar period.

Originally relocated from the Elsternwick Railway Reserve in 1909, the previously open timber bandstand structure has been substantially modified. A faceted timber roof with a timber-lined soffit and ceiling with a radiating geometric design have been added, enclosing the bandstand. A timber balustrade and posts with decorative vertical fretwork have also been constructed. The bandstand has been raised to incorporate a brick storage room and a matching timber stair with concrete treads constructed on the north face. While extensively modified, it is historically and socially significant to the wider understanding of the gardens.

More recent pathways, including a circular path next to the bandstand, and a playground have been added in the southern part of the site.

New paving, flower beds and contemporary metal edging have been introduced to the main entrance along Glenhuntly Road. Low curvilinear concrete walls and seating have also been added. While additions to the main entrance are sympathetic to the original design, they are not significant.

Notable features of the Gardens include two cannons manufactured in 1866 that were originally positioned either side of the central pathway, facing Glenhuntly Road. These have recently been shifted to a prominent location on the west side of the

central path. A low basalt bench in the south-east corner of the site is also a significant feature. The stone retaining wall to south-west corner of the site is likely early.





In 1910, two 80-pound cannons were introduced to the gardens







Low lava rock bench in the south-east corner of the site

Picturesque views of the site, large expanses of lawn and a significant collection of trees feature throughout Hopetoun Gardens. Native trees include the Kurrajong/Illawarra Flame Tree and Turpentine tree while more exotic species include the South African Cape Bushwillow, admired for its low, weeping canopy and Wild Plum tree, a large evergreen tree that can grow up to 15 metres tall. Some remnant early plantings have also been maintained.

Notable trees are identified by the following table.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Details	Image
1. English Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Western Europe Grow rapidly in south-eastern Australia	
2. Cork Oak (<i>Quercus suber</i>)	Spain, Portugal, and northern Africa Slow growing	

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Details	Image
3. Himalayan Cedar (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>)	Western Himalayan Region Eight trees were planted in the 1920s to the outer edge of the central path. The six northern-most trees remain intact.	
4. Brush box (<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>)	Coastal NSW and Queensland	
5. Camphor Laurel (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>)	Taiwan, Japan, China	
6. Wild Plum (<i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>)	South Africa Uncommon in Australia	
7. Bull Bay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>)	South Eastern USA	

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Details	Image
		
8. Cape Bushwillow (<i>Combretum caffrum</i>)	South Africa	
9. Bunya Pine (<i>Araucaria bidwilli</i>)	South East Queensland (Source: Google Street view, January 2010)	
10. Cape Chestnut (<i>Calodendron capense</i>)	Southern Africa	

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Details	Image
11. Turpentine (<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>)	NSW and Queensland	
12. Kurrajong/Illawarra Flame Tree (<i>Brachychiton acerifolia</i>)	Central NSW to Central Queensland	

There are also several Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) of varying age and size across the gardens, though generally planted more recently.



History

Hopetoun Gardens derive from Crown Allotment 37, a roughly 45 acre (approx. 18 ha) holding acquired by John Allee, likely in the early 1850s.¹ A decade prior, Allee and his business partner, the eminent 19th century architect Charles Webb (who also owned property nearby, Crown Allotment 275), were considered to be amongst Melbourne's 'leading builders'.² Despite such a reputation, Allee's purchase in Elsterwick – as the locality was popularly known from the late 1850s³ – appears to have been speculative, with the property remaining heathland until the 1870s.⁴



Historic Parish Plan of Crown Allotment 37 superimposed over existing streets
Hopetoun Gardens is outlined in red
(Source: PROV Map Warper, Prahran Plan, Imperial measure P341-2, VPRS 16171)

While initially situated on the periphery of suburban Melbourne, beyond the more settled environs of Prahran and St Kilda, the ready availability of considerable allotments in Elsterwick and the early private establishment of its railway station (1859) proved attractive to the genteel and affluent. Alongside dairies and market gardens, a patchwork of prestige estates, 'private houses of a superior character standing in pleasure grounds',⁵ were erected from the 1860s. The government takeover of the railway line (1878), which improved services, and speculative activities of the land boom stimulated a more intensive phase of subdivision and development in the suburb over the 1880s. Along the major roads and across the former grounds of handsome mansions, rows of generally high-quality detached houses multiplied and dedicated shopping strips emerged. Following the general building hiatus of the 1890s Depression, a decidedly middle-class suburb consolidated with little unused land available by the early 1930s.⁶

¹ J Noone, *Prahran, Country of Bourke*, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, 1882, SLV

² Susan Priestly, *South Melbourne: a history*, Carlton, Melbourne University Press, 1995, p39. Allee was a resident and Councillor at Brighton, where he died in 1877 ('Sudden Death', *Herald*, 18 October 1877, p3). His portrait is available at the SLV (BIB ID 1803912)

³ Known as 'Red Bluff' over the early 19th century, the designation of 'Elsterwick' increased in popularity from the early 1850s. It likely derives from the combination of either a local creek (now Elwood Canal) and/or the name of an early cottage – *Elster* (the German word for magpie) – with the Old English word for village, *Wick*; a reference to the Village of Elsterwick survey. (Jill Barnard, 'Elsterwick', *eMelbourne: the city past & present*, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008, <<http://emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00515b.htm>>, accessed 12 August 2019)

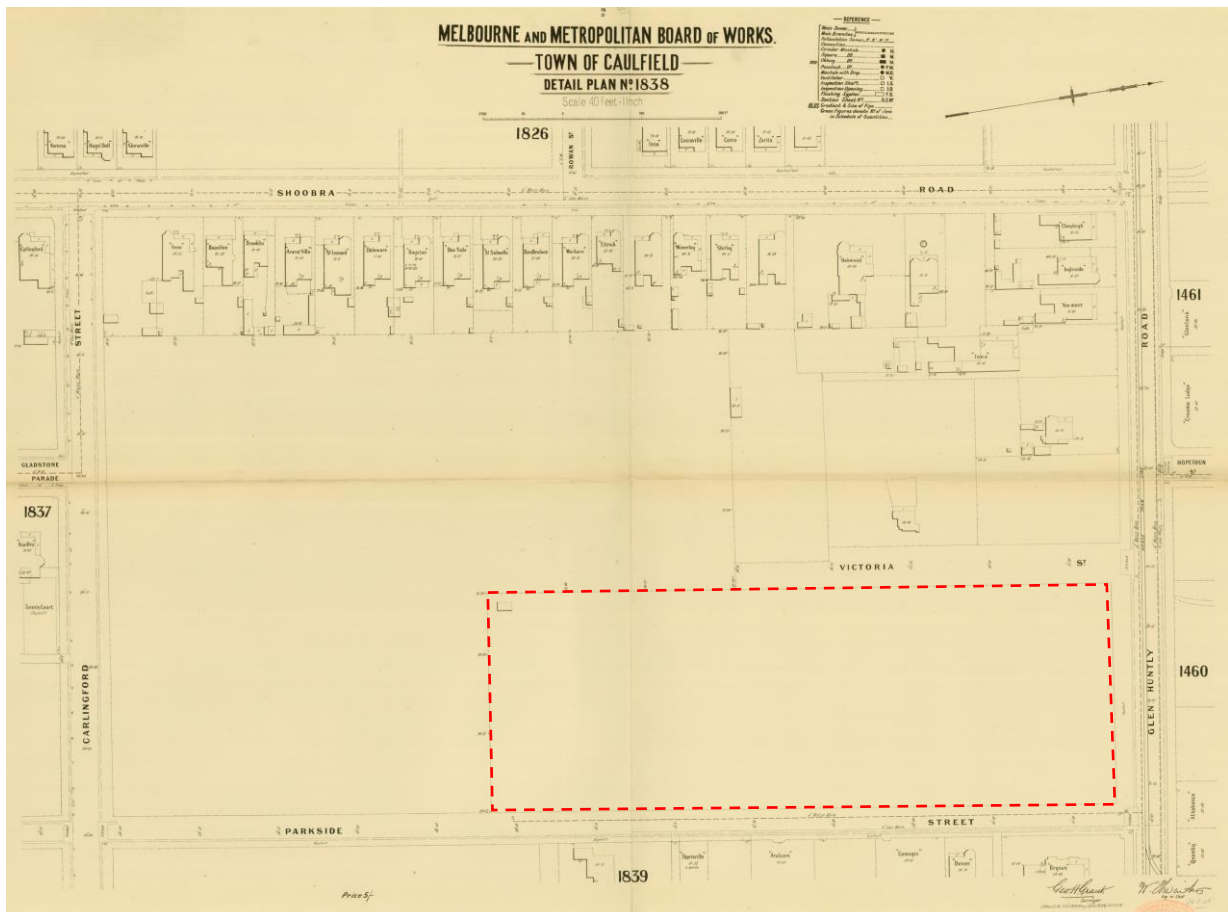
⁴ Peter R Murray and John C Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath: a history of Caulfield*, J & D Burrows, City of Caulfield, 1980, p82

⁵ Andrew Garran, *Picturesque atlas of Australasia*, Sydney, Picturesque Atlas Publishing Company, 1888, p148

⁶ Murray and Wells, *From sand, swamp and health: a history of Caulfield*, p110

The first known use of the area encompassing the subject land occurred over the 1870s and 1880s, when John Stancil Illbery and his family were tenants.⁷ It is likely that they cultivated sections as a market garden and/or a depot for their successful road contracting operations. At his death in 1932, John was purportedly the 'oldest resident of Caulfield' and a well-known local identity due to his commercial activity and term as a councillor (Caulfield Shire).⁸

In the wake of the Illbery family, much of Crown Allotment 37 was progressively subdivided and subject to residential development. However, a large section between Victoria and Parkside streets – including the grounds of the subject place – remained largely vacant (it was later described as having been used as a 'grazing paddock'⁹) and, by this stage, owned by the Victorian Permanent Building Society.¹⁰ This state of affairs is depicted by the 1905 MMBW plan.



MMBW detail plan no. 1838, dated 1905
The property that would accommodate Hopetoun Gardens is outlined)
A small structure (since demolished) is evident in the south-west corner
North is right of frame
(SLV)

By the early 1900s, large stretches of undeveloped property in Elsternwick were rare, making the holding between Victoria and Parkside streets a tempting target for speculators as well as community groups. The latter of whom, increasingly conscious of the disparity of public green spaces between their locality and the central and western parts of the Caulfield district, began agitating for the establishment of civic parks and gardens. This task was to prove difficult, as all reserves in Elsternwick had been alienated by the late 1870s, meaning that private land would have to be actively purchased.

⁷ Geulah Solomon, *Caulfield's Recreational Heritage*, vol.3, City of Caulfield, 1990, p90; and review of *Sands and McDougall's Directory* editions, 1870-90

⁸ 'Caulfield Identity', *Herald*, 23 June 1932, p10

⁹ 'Hopetoun Park', *Brighton Southern Cross*, 7 August 1909, p5

¹⁰ Review of Caulfield rate books

Tentative steps were made in 1905 with the creation by Council of the Elsternwick Railway Reserve (now known as Elsternwick Station Reserve) on what was initially, rented land. Arrangements for this modest and irregularly shaped 'railway' park were however, limited; consisting of donated plantings and £50 for landscaping works. Nonetheless, the Reserve proved popular, particularly that of a timber bandstand, which was erected on the back of the fundraising efforts by the Elsternwick Ratepayers Committee soon after the reserve was opened. Yet the diminutive size of the space proved prohibitive to larger gatherings and dissatisfaction lingered.¹¹

As a result, local organisations began to campaign for the founding of a larger park – one befitting the status of a consolidating and prosperous suburb. The push was spearheaded by the Elsternwick Progress Association, with its vice-president Dr R E Weigall (later the president of the RACV) taking lead.¹² Volunteer progress associations had proliferated across 20th century Melbourne, set by residents to channel and foster community sentiments as well as lobby municipal and state authorities. It seems likely that the Elsternwick Progress Association – founded in July 1906¹³ – may be one of the earliest manifestations of this loosely connected wider movement.¹⁴ Its agenda for improvements in the suburb was certainly ambitious and, after only several months in existence, it was announcing that an appropriate site for a new park had been found:

[the Association had] arrived at a unanimous conclusion to recommend the council to purchase a block of 5 acres, bound on three sides by Glen Huntly-road, Parkside-street and Victoria-street, at £350 per acre. This block is situated almost in the centre of Elsternwick, and is of easy access. From the centre a clear and uninterrupted view of Hobson's Bay is obtained, and it contains all the possibilities of turning it into one of the most attractive resorts.¹⁵

Beyond recommending its acquisition, several members of the organisation had actually put down a deposit on the land and were holding it in trust, pending the municipal decision. While deputations frequented Council meetings to push for official approval, the Progress Association roused interest by publicly discussing plans for the new park:

[It is proposed] to fence in a central portion of the area for the holding of open air concerts, and the band stand near Elsternwick station [Elsternwick Railway Reserve], will be removed there with that object. A bowling green, tennis court and cricket ground will also be established, and the remainder of the tract will be laid out as a garden. The clubs controlling these subsidiary enterprises, it is believed, will pay for the maintenance of the whole reserve. Representatives of the progress association are arranging for a deputation to ask the Premier for a grant for fencing the property.¹⁶

Yet municipal deliberations were slow as legal and funding entanglements were traversed, with a handful of councillors from other parts of the district doubtful about prioritising public funds for a Elsternwick park when 'urgent' drainage works remained uncompleted.¹⁷ The pressure of the Progress Association was however, unrelenting and in April 1907 Council agreed to the purchase of the 5 acre (approximately 2 hectare) site and its dedication as a public garden.¹⁸

Underlying this community campaign were late 19th and early 20th century ideological currents relating to respectability and municipal pride that promoted the facilitation of various forms of reserves, parks and gardens for active and passive recreational usage. These beliefs were espoused particularly by advocates of the 'city beautiful' movement (essentially, embedding civic beautification and functionalism into urban planning), revolved around interconnected issues of public morality, health and citizenship.¹⁹ The provision of public green spaces became a central tenant of the town planning in the Federation period and Victoria's budding identity as the 'Garden State'.²⁰

The actions required to establish the park (seemingly not proclaimed 'Hopetoun Gardens' until the eve of its opening) occurred quickly. In December 1907, the well-regarded and long tenured Curator of Parks and Gardens in the City of Malvern, the

¹¹ Murray and Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath: a history of Caulfield*, p33

¹² 'Obituary: Dr R. E. Weigall', *Argus*, 12 March 1947, p9

¹³ 'Elsternwick Progress Association', *Argus*, 10 Jul 1906, p6

¹⁴ Helen Penrose, 'Progress Association', *eMelbourne*, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008, <<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01198b.htm>>, accessed 30 September 2019

¹⁵ 'A New Park: Movement at Elsternwick: Selecting A Site', *Brighton Southern Cross*, 6 October 1906.

¹⁶ 'Elsternwick Recreation Reserve', *Age*, 27 November 1906, p9

¹⁷ For instance, see 'New Park for Elsternwick', *Age*, 5 October 1906, p9

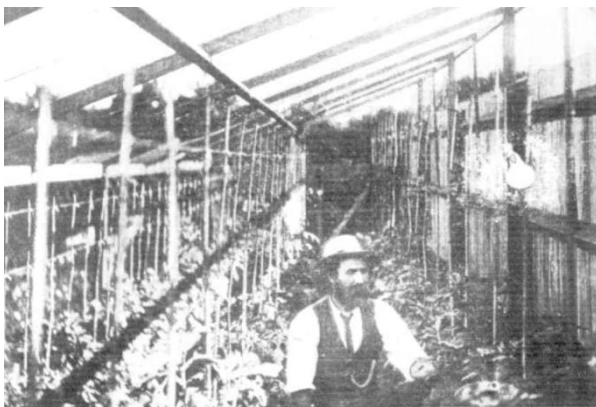
¹⁸ The handover of the Hopetoun Gardens from the Elsternwick Progress Association was not completed until mid-1909, following Council's eventual raising of a £2,000 loan, supplemented by a state government grant ('Municipal Function At Elsternwick', *Age*, 2 August 1909, p6)

¹⁹ Robert Freestone, *Urban Nation: Australia's Planning Heritage*, CSIRO Publishing in association with the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and The Australian Heritage Council, 2010, p240

²⁰ Richard Aitken, 'Gardens and Garden Design', *eMelbourne*, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008, <<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00621b.htm>>, accessed 30 September 2019

England-born Thomas William Pockett (1857-1952), was invited by Council to advise on the planning of the garden.²¹ Pockett's public profile is indicative of the late 19th and early 20th century trend to celebrate horticulturalists. His passion and skill for plant breeding saw him attain an international reputation as the 'chrysanthemum man' (for which Pockett was awarded an OBE in 1945). During his career with Malvern (1888-1918), Pockett was responsible for designing multiple public green spaces, with Malvern Public Gardens and Central Park amongst his better-known outputs.²² His work at Hopetoun Gardens does not appear to have attracted a great degree of attention at the time – perhaps because he was 'on loan' from Malvern – nor did it occur without some interference (despite the urgings of the Progress Association that all planting be native, the Council obtained a range of ornamental trees from the Royal Botanic Gardens).²³

Seemingly self-taught, Pockett's approach in curating parks appears as individualistic; more responsive to the site and available resources than consciously employing a specific garden style. Nevertheless, his work can be understood as broadly influenced by the formal and informal strains of landscape design that were prevalent in the Federation period (a mixture of the Arts and Crafts idiom and Guifolean naturalism); characterised by restrained plantings, sweeping lawns, curving paths and geometric elements/planting arrangements.²⁴



(Above) 'Mr T Pockett (Curator Malvern Gardens) amongst his chrysanthemums'
(Source: 'Our Public Gardens', *Australasian*, 20 February 1904, p26)



(Right) Golden wedding anniversary (1928) portrait of Thomas, wife Louisa and, of course, his chrysanthemums.
(Source: Malvern Collections, Stonnington History Centre, MP5091)

The park – as Hopetoun Gardens – was formally opened, with much fanfare, on 31 July 1909, with an audience of around a thousand overseen by the Mayor of Caulfield, who was presented with a gold key to mark the occasion. The reasoning behind its name was not publicly elaborated upon but presumably was in reference to John Hope, the Seventh Earl of Hopetoun and first governor-general of the Commonwealth (who had previously also been a popular Governor of Victoria). The event was initiated by a march to the gardens led by the Elsternwick Naval Brigade (who also performed cutlass drills and flag signalling), cadets from both Caulfield Grammar School and Caulfield state school, and the Caulfield Scouts, with music supplied by the Elsternwick and St Kilda Brass Band and 'two pipers' from Caledonian Society.²⁵ Conspicuously, the efforts of the Progress Association did not feature in official commentary, leading the *Brighton Southern Cross* to comment:

strange to say the body, which were primarily responsible in securing the park for the people, were not officially recognised at the opening. Nevertheless it will stand for all time as a monument to the perseverance and assiduity of the Progress Association that to them alone remains, the credit of securing one of the finest reserves to the people of Elsternwick.²⁶

²¹ Murray and Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath: a history of Caulfield*, p33

²² 'A Healesville Nonagenarian', *Healesville Guardian*, 7 November 1952, p3; and City of Stonnington, *Malvern Public Gardens*, Victorian Heritage Database Report

²³ Murray and Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath: a history of Caulfield*, p33

²⁴ Aitken, 'Gardens and Garden Design'

²⁵ 'Hopetoun Gardens', *Argus*, 2 August 1909, p9

²⁶ 'Hopetoun Park', *Brighton Southern Cross*, 7 August 1909, p5

At this time, Hopetoun Gardens were described as:

a spacious flat area, which has been ornamentally fenced, and includes, besides artistically laid out gardens planted with over 100 young trees and numerous shrubs and flowers, a tennis court reserve and a spacious bowling green and pavilion, which will be available for use at the commencement of the ensuing season...²⁷

Future plans to plant the southern end of the gardens with Australian trees were also publicised.²⁸ Within a month of opening (August 1909), the bandstand from the Elsternwick Railway Reserve had been dismantled and re-erected at Hopetoun Gardens.²⁹ It was joined in 1910 by a pair of 80-pound decommissioned cannons obtained from the Defence Department by Council. These guns had been manufactured in 1866 at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich, England before being mounted at Fort Gelibrand at Williamstown in response to heightened anxiety about Melbourne's defence in the late 19th century.³⁰ Supporting their installation was the councillor and later mayor (1909 and 1917), Arthur Dunbar,³¹ a strong backer of the park:

It would be a fine thing from an educational point of view to have the guns there. Boys would learn the necessity for being prepared for the defence of the country. That was the real way to secure peace... The guns would be an object-lesson, and a young Nelson might yet arise in Caulfield.³²

The original layout of the park is evident in a circa 1910 photograph, reproduced below. It shows the prominent positioning of one of the cannons, at the front of the gardens facing Glenhuntly Road, propped by timber supports and positioned on a rectangular paved area. Although outside the photograph, the second cannon was located on the opposite side of the path, maintaining the strong axis of the design. The central path led to a formal, grassed island with rose bushes. Irregularly shaped flower beds, lined with box row hedging are also evident as are mature tree plantings and wide pathways (possibly surfaced in gravel). A similar informal arrangement also characterises Pockett's Malvern Gardens, where formal angular beds were avoided.³³



Hopetoun Gardens, photographed circa 1910
Looking south towards central grassed island from Glenhuntly Road
(Source: SLV, H42782/25)

²⁷ 'Hopetoun Gardens', *Age*, 2 August 1909, p6

²⁸ 'Hopetoun-Gardens: Elsternwick Pleasure-Ground', *Argus*, 2 August 1909, p9

²⁹ *Brighton Southern Cross*, 3 July 1909, p4; *Brighton Southern Cross*, 7 July 1906, p3

³⁰ Glen Eira City Council, 'Cannons in Hopetoun Gardens', nd, <<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/history-and-heritage/our-monuments-and-sites/cannons-in-hopetoun-gardens>>, accessed 29 September 2019

³¹ 'Death of Mr A Dunbar', *Argus*, 28 December 1929, p14

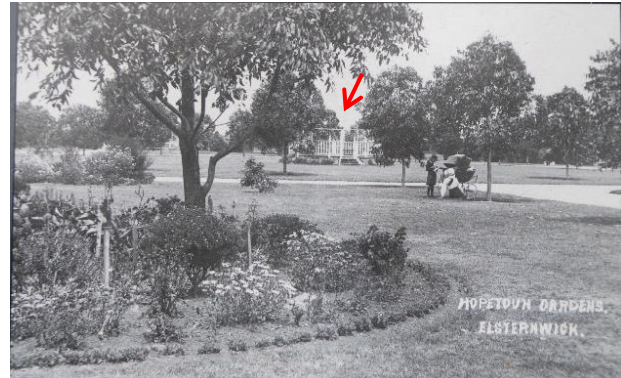
³² 'Great Guns. Obsolete Artillery for Elsternwick', *Brighton Southern Cross*, 19 September 1908, p6

³³ John Pockett, *Chrysanthemums: A biography of the life and work of the late Thomas Pockett, O.B.E.*, Carlton, Horticultural Press, 1958

Other early depictions of the Hopetoun Gardens show the south end of the site as well as the relocated bandstand. At this time, the early 1900s, the central path terminated midway through the park while intersecting with the circular path that surrounded the bandstand. This element, also referred to as the 'pavilion'³⁴, was then only a slightly elevated timber structure and did not have a roof.



Railway Reserve, Elsternwick, circa 1905. The timber bandstand is evident, indicated by the red arrow, prior to its relocation to Hopetoun Gardens (Source: SLV, H33673/62)



Hopetoun Gardens, circa 1910. Looking south towards relocated timber bandstand (red arrow) (Source: SLV, H42782/26)

The 'quality and quality' of parks and reserves in early 20th century Caulfield drew the attention of the Victorian Town Planning and Park Association, with special note made of Hopetoun Gardens in 1915:

which [is currently] being planted with Australian trees and shrubs, affords a noble display of varied and beautiful foliage, a result which reflects credit on the designer and is a tribute to the care and spirit of the curator [Pockett].³⁵

Further commentary about the park system in Caulfield was generated by the inaugural Australian Town Planning and Housing Conference and Exhibition, held in 1917. Delegates highlighted the 'striking' commitment of the municipal body in providing public green spaces in 'every part of the city' with much credit given to W J M Woolley, the city surveyor and engineer, for this 'scheme of public beautification'. Once again, Hopetoun Gardens were specified:

It faces Glen Huntly road, and at once attracts the attention of travellers by the electric tram. Although these gardens were formed about 12 years ago, considerable improvements have been effected since Mr J Reeves took charge as gardener. Six acres contain magnificent specimens of acacias and eucalypts. At present the wattle trees, acacia elta, are in full bloom, and they present a fine appearance. Seasonable flowers are sending out bright tins, and a few hour spent in the gardens... will be full of interest.³⁶



Hopetoun Gardens photographed from Glenhuntly Road, likely during Interwar period. Note more maturing plantings. (Source: Murray and Wells, *From sand, swamp and health: a history of Caulfield*, p32)

³⁴ 'Hopetoun Gardens', *Argus*, 2 August 1909, p9

³⁵ 'Property and Real Estate News', *Mail*, 24 April 1915, p12

³⁶ 'Caulfield City Brightened', *Herald*, 15 February 1918, p2

By the Interwar period, public gardens and parks – its green ‘lungs’ – were a well-established facet of the Caulfield district and routinely identified as a key reason behind the district’s ‘rapid development’ and ‘hygienic’ reputation.³⁷ This network of green spaces were then managed collectively by the Parks and Gardens Committee; who appointed gardeners, organised ‘patrolling’ (in an attempt to manage the behaviour of users) and deliberated upon expenditure for maintenance, new works and planting.³⁸ Hopetoun Gardens continued to be recognised, with a 1937 feature article on public parks in metropolitan Melbourne, portraying them as one of those ‘miniature, lovely little parks tucked away in the heart of the suburbs; parks which confront one suddenly; exquisite oases among suburban villas’. To the correspondent, the nearly three decade old park had an ‘old-world air about them’, its character defined by the ‘grim grey cannon’ and ‘bustle and bonnets’.³⁹

The pathway system implemented by Pockett remains detectable in a 1931 aerial photograph (below), including the axial linear and circular paths to the north and south of the gardens. The existing eight Himalayan cedar trees had been planted by then, possibly in the 1920s, along the central path to provide a formal gateway are also apparent. The meandering pathways to the north, east, and west perimeters of the site, are also probably original elements. By this time, it seems that the grassed island to the north of the site has been changed to the current format, as it was divided into four outer quadrants with a small central circular bed, forming a series of radiating paths and garden beds. Extant lava rock edging, typical of the public garden design in Interwar period, as well as the narrow concrete edging to the outer grassed sections and raising of the central island’s ground level had also likely been introduced.



1931 aerial photograph of Hopetoun Gardens
North is top of frame
(Source: Landata, *Maldon Prison*, Run 24, Frame 2491)



1945 aerial photograph of Hopetoun Gardens
North is top of frame
(Source: Landata, *Melbourne and Metropolitan Area Project*, Run 15, Frame 57786)

³⁷ 'The New Suburbs: Caulfield's Great Expansion', *Age*, 29 July 1926, p15

³⁸ 'Caulfield Parks and Gardens', *Prahran Telegraph*, 12 February 1926, p5

³⁹ 'Hidden Gardens of a Garden City', *Herald*, 23 January 1937, p39

The 1945 aerial photograph shows a number of changes. The formal path appears to have been reduced in width and both the large circular path in the south part of the gardens and meandering paths to its perimeters removed. Further, three diagonal concrete pathways with a gentle curve had been introduced from the north-west, north-east and south-east corners of the gardens. While the circular path to the south of the park had been removed, a ring of trees identified its location.

During the post-WWII period, a fourth diagonal pathway was added from the south-west of the gardens and several Canary Island Date Palms added to its northern, eastern and western perimeters.

By 1997 two large trees in the front corners of the site had been removed, to be later replaced with circular flower beds, and a low rendered wall had been built at the north entry. A series of curved pathways had been added to the middle of the site, either side of the central path.⁴⁰ Trees on the south half of the site had substantially grown and a playground had been added. A series of some connecting pathways were introduced about the bandstand after 2007.⁴¹

The cannons continued to occupy a prominent position at the front of the site until at least 2013, when there was a star defined in the paving at the north entry.⁴² The wider entry was introduced during late 2016, though the guns including concrete pads, had been relocated to their extant location by late 2015.

Thematic Context/Comparative Analysis

City of Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan – vol. 1 (Historical Background):

- The Post Federation Years (1900s-1910s)

Known comparable places in the City of Glen Eira.

The Hopetoun Gardens are one of a few parks or gardens established during the Federation period in the City of Glen Eira.

- Caulfield Park, HO4 (280 Balaclava Road, Caulfield North), includes a Turpentine tree (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) which is included on the National Trust Register (T11482).
- Greenmeadows Gardens, included in HO74, Lempriere Avenue, Greenmeadows Gardens and environs (1 Green Street, St Kilda East). No individual trees are identified in the Schedule but it includes a Cape Bushwillow (*Combretum caffrum*) of similar age according to the National Trust Register (T11485).
- Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*) at 271 Glen Eira road, Caulfield located in grounds of St Mary's Anglican Church (HO25, National Trust Register, T11475). Thought to possibly be the largest specimen in Australia.

Condition

Good

Integrity

Mostly intact

Previous Assessment

Rotunda, C grade (local significance) – Andrew Ward, City of Caulfield Urban Conservation Study, field survey sheet 18, 1996

Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes
Outbuildings and/or Fences	No

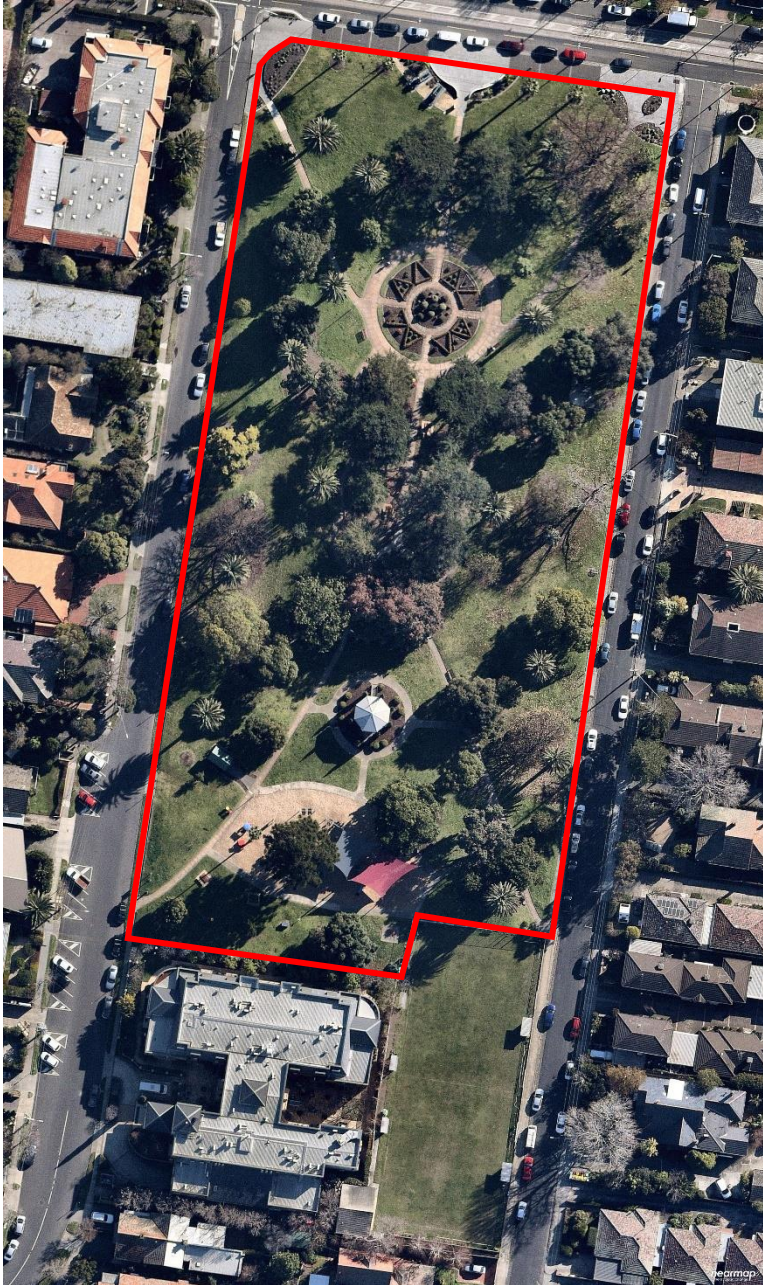
⁴⁰ 1997 aerial, GIS, Glen Eira City Council

⁴¹ 2007 aerial, GIS, Glen Eira City Council

⁴² Google Street View, November 2007 to October 2015, November 2016

Extent of Heritage Overlay

The proposed extent of the heritage overlay would be the parcel of land associated with 520 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick.



Recommended extent of registration
(Source: Nearmap, depicting August 2019)