3.1.22 Wirranendi/Park 23 Report
Wirranendi/Park 23

Historical Overview: Site Context

 ARISING FROM LIGHT’S PLAN, Wirranendi/Park 23 consists of 57.4ha of land bounded by Anzac Highway (originally Bay Road), West Terrace, Burbridge Road (originally Hilton Road) and the Railway line to the west, of which a large proportion is the West Terrace Cemetery.

The West Terrace Cemetery is an integral part of Wirranendi/Park 23 and cannot be isolated from any discussion about and review of its cultural landscape. The cemetery was designated in Light’s original 1837 plan for Adelaide, and over the years as growth and demand has occurred portions of Wirranendi/Park 23 have been excised from the Park Lands and annexed to the Cemetery.

The brief for this Assessment Study (2007) excludes the West Terrace Cemetery from its consideration but it has been necessary to review the historical evolution of the Cemetery and incorporate it below as it is in so closely intertwined with Wirranendi/Park 23. Thus, there is a considerable review of the larger spatial history of the Cemetery contained in this report.

Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations

There are no specific references to Kaurna sites or activities, pre-contact or post-contact, for Wirranendi/Park 23. Following post-contact the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25, Tulya Wodli/Park 27) was used for Aboriginal encampments and several activities that are reviewed chronologically below.

Notwithstanding this lack of specific information, it is known that many Indigenous peoples have been buried in the West Terrace Cemetery. It is associated with grave-robbing of several Aboriginal bodies by late 20th century colonial Medical Examiner Ramsay Smith, including the remains of Ngarrindjeri identity Tommy Walker in 1903 (Hemming 1998, pp. 22-23; Draper et al 2005, p. 73).

3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS & SQUARES

Aboriginal bodies by late 20th century colonial Medical Examiner Ramsay Smith, including the remains of Ngarrindjeri identity Tommy Walker in 1903 (Hemming 1998, pp. 22-23; Draper et al 2005, p. 73).

Historical Overview: Post Contact Associations

From the 1850s to the late 1870s Wirranendi/Park 23, excluding the West Terrace Cemetery, was used for grazing, fire wood collection, and agistment. It was fenced in white-painted timber post and wire in the late 1860s, and by this time most of the indigenous vegetation had been effectively removed from Wirranendi/Park 23.

Discussions by the Corporation and the Mayors (Lord Mayors) about landscaping the River Torrens/Karrawirra Piti embankments as well as the Park Lands generally were commonplace from the mid 1850s onwards. The thoughts may have really been prompted by critical comments and articles in The Register, including reports of public meetings that voiced critique of the quality of the Park Lands, in 1854 onwards (eg, The Register 17 June 1854, p. 4; 8 July 1857, p. 2), that were in many ways directed towards the colonial Governor than the Corporation.

For example, the editor of The Register wrote in July 1857:

The Park Lands will never be other than a quagmire in winter, and a desert of blinding, suffocating dust in summer, … unless properly fenced roads are constructed through the … With such roads as now disgrace the Park Lands there is no alternative for vehicles but to deviate in all directions from the track, thus cutting up acres of pasture ground on every side and rendering it utterly useless (The Register 8 July 1857, p. 2).

These public debates and discussions appear to have been prompted by concerns from the colonial Governor about the overall aesthetic appearance of the Park Lands. For example, on 17 July 1855 the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Corporation’s Town Clerk expressing a desire “that something should be done to improve the present very unsightly appearance of most of the Park Lands near the Town; … which he [Governor Gawler] thinks might be effected by the judicious planting of clumps of trees on half acres [0.2ha] or even quarter acres [0.1ha] in suitable places; care being taken to fence such clumps with strong but neat fencing.”

Willingly, to assist these landscaping works, the Governor volunteered a budget of £400, “a sum sufficient to accomplish much, but not all that he wishes” which the Corporation eagerly accepted “at once to carry out His Excellency’s wishes and propose to do so by means of competent gardeners [on] contracts to be obtained by advertisements in the usual newspapers, the works generally being performed under the supervision of the City Surveyor.” With acceptance, the Governor imposed one condition requiring the appointment of an expert referee to monitor the works: “that some person should be nominated by himself to represent the Executive in this matter and to have a voice in the selection of the position of the several plantations and of the species of fencing to be made use of.” The Colonial Secretary appointed horticulturist John Bailey, of Hackney Nursery, to this role. Unfortunately this scheme collapsed with the dissolution of the Legislative Council in August 1855 despite unknown authored sketch “on the subject of planting a Public Square” being sent to the Corporation on 9 October 1855, with correspondence from the Governor indicating that “the writer of the memorandum has indicated some most sensible and just views of Landscape Gardening…”

The advice included a recommendation that, “in a climate like South Australia’s and to avoid the inconvenience of having to wait years for effect, clumps should be formed of the Olive [Olea europaea], the Wattle [Acacia spp] and Gum-tree [Eucalyptus spp]…” It is possible the plan author was inaugural director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, George Francis, more so than Bailey as there is no evidence of Bailey’s plan drawing skills whereas the sketch the text is similar in style to Francis’s hand (Letter, Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 7 July 1855, GRG 24/6/1381
While Francis, Bailey and Boothby were predominantly planting olive (Olea europaea) trees in the Park Lands, City Gardener William Pengilly also undertook olive (Olea europaea) plantings in several areas. During 1872 he was planting them on the West Terrace Park Lands (Wikaparndo/Park 22, Wirranendi/Park 23, and Tambawodli/Park 24) numbering 350 and 350). Italian olive (Olea europaea) expert Paolo Villanis, in 1882, corroborated the existence of these plantings when he reviewed the state and condition of all the olive (Olea europaea) plantations in the Park Lands for the Corporation recording substantial olive groves “between the Port and Slaughterhouse Roads and Sheep Market” in Tulya Wodi/Place 27, adjacent to West Terrace (Wikaparndo/Park 22, Wirranendi/Park 23, and Tambawodli/Park 24), as well as in numerous other Park Land blocks (Letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 13 July 1883, TC 1883/2224; The Register, 24 July 1883, p. 6; letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465; letter, William Pengilly to Town Clerk, 16 July 1872, TC 1872/519 and 4 September 1872, TC 1872/622).

In February 1886 Villanis provided an inventory to the Corporation of “the number of olive (Olea europaea) trees presently bearing fruit in the Town Corporation ground,” (note ‘fruit bearing and not a total list of trees overall) excluding the Gaol enclosures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of trees bearing fruit</th>
<th>Present Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mann Terrace</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brougham Place</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Brougham, 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer Place</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Palmer, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellington Square</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrens Lake</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangways Terrace</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitcham Road [Unley Road]</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>19 &amp; 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantation bordering the Old Race Course</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Park Lands (Old Race Course)</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dequetteville Park</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Park Lands (between Old Race Course and North Terrace)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindmarsh Square</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hindmarsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Square</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitmore Square</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Whitmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Terrace</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>22, 23, &amp; 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>873</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2505 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 13 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2644 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1605 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 20 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1740 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2129 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/3289 (1855)).

West Terrace Cemetery was first designated in Light’s first 1837 plan for Adelaide, and initially comprised an area of 32 acres (12.9ha). The total area today comprises 66 acres (26.7ha). Between 1837 to 1986 some 137,246 burials have taken place in the Cemetery. Until the appointment of a Board of Trustees for the Cemetery in 1839, there was no management of the cemetery grounds. The first burial took place in July 1837. There were no official grave-diggers and the bereaved buried their dead in the cemetery precinct at their own discretion. With the establishment of a Board, Anglican Reverend CB Howard, the first Colonial Chaplain, took charge of the situation and on 2 September 1847 storekeeper Thomas Gilbert was appointed Superintendent of the Cemetery. With the resignation of the entire Board in 1847, the Surveyor General George Goyder took charge of the Cemetery until 1897 whereupon it was transferred to the Commissioner of Public Works under Charles Owen Smyth. By c.1840 the Cemetery area, comprising 32 acres (12.9ha), was fenced. The Municipal Corporation Act of 1849 recorded an extension to the Cemetery to the north to encompass a total area of 60 acres (24.2ha).
Spatially, the appointment of a Board enabled religious sub-precincts to be created within the Cemetery thereby creating the present pattern of denominational demarcation of the Cemetery. In August 1843 Mr EL Montefiore invited that a small section of the Cemetery be designated for Jewish burials. In January 1845 the Reverend Michael Ryan, the Secretary of the Catholic Bishop, together with Dr Murphy requested an area for Catholic burials and was granted some 4 acres (1.6ha) adjoining the public cemetery. In 1849 an area was specifically designated for Anglican use. The Society of Friends (Quakers) was also granted an area in 1855. In 1862 the Anglican Church relinquished their area. In 1879 care of the Jewish section was relinquished in anticipation of a promised new public cemetery to Catholic use, by the former did not eventuate. Between 1884-1900 the Catholic area was expanded when an unused portion of the Society of Friends (Quakers) sub-precinct was relinquished. The focal point of the Catholic precinct of the Cemetery is a chapel. In 1870 a Roman Catholic Chapel was erected at the Cemetery to an architectural design by Edward J Woods. The Chapel, a memorial to the Very Reverend John Smyth, was erected following a design competition conducted by the Smyth Memorial Fund Committee in the latter part of 1870. The Venerable Archdeacon Russell VG unveiled the foundation stone on 18 December 1870 with an audience of Reverend Father Bonquerts, Corcoran, Hughes, and McClusky. The Chapel was constructed by Messrs Peters and Jones for a cost of £472/14s and opened on 22 October 1871 by the Right Reverend Dr Shiel in the presence of a large audience. The Reverend Fathers Horan OSF, Murphy, Kennedy, Hughes, Nowlan OSA, McClusky and Nevin assisted (Adelaide Observer 28 October 1871). The Chapel has been described as:

A building of this form, date (1870) and style is rare in Australia. It is a graceful octagonal, early gothic revival chapel with pointed roof terminating in a fleche. The walls are bluestone with slate floors and steps, and sandstone gargoyles; the roof covering is of corrugated iron (letter to Keith Harris, 11 September 1978, from Max Bourke, Director, Australian Heritage Commission).
During 1878-79 the Corporation undertook extensive erection of new fencing and repairs to the exiting fencing of the South Park Lands. In the south, most of this work involved the erection of new fencing of white painted post and rail with 2-3 strands of wire. Access gates for pedestrians and vehicles were also included in these works (Annual Report 1878-79, pp. 77-78).

With the engagement of John Ednie Brown to prepare a Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands (1880) Brown recorded that Wirranendi/Park 23 was:

… very much exposed to the sea breeze; the soil is good in places, but the subsoil is, as a rule, of a hard calcareous nature. As a whole, the block is not very inviting for the successful operations of the Landscape Gardener (Brown 1880, p. 25).

With this conclusion, Brown also noted the stunted and poor extant vegetation plantations that Pengilly had been seeking to establish in Wirranendi/Park 23. These plantings consisted of:

… strips planted along Hilton-road [Sir Donald Bradman Drive], West-terrace, and the Bay-road. The trees consist of Gums chiefly, with some different species of coniferæ in front of the Terrace (Brown 1880, p. 25).

In terms of suggested improvements, Brown reinforced the need to remove any Eucalpt ssp from the present plantations,

… that plantations, clumps of trees, and footpaths be laid out on the ground as shown on Plan 24; that, as far as possible, the Gums be removed from the present plantations, and the spaces thereby created filled up with an intermixture of more suitable kinds; and that the kinds of trees which should be planted here, together with the particular system of operations relating thereto, should be all as recommended for similar works described under the heading in this report of “Suggestions for the improvement of the western portion of the South Park Lands (Brown 1880, p. 25).

His planting recommendations for the western portion of the South Park Lands
Brown’s planting plan delineated peripheral plantations along the roadside bordering Wirranendi/Park 23 together with plantations surrounding the then Cemetery reserve, accompanied by a circuitous pathway system. Within the remaining areas were clumps of vegetation.

### On Saline Ground:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nomenclature as used by JE Brown (1880)</th>
<th>Current Scientific Nomenclature</th>
<th>Current Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinus Pinaster</td>
<td>Pinus pinaster</td>
<td>Maritime Pine, Cluster Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritima</td>
<td>Pinus pinaster var. maritima</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiata</td>
<td>Pinus radiata</td>
<td>Monterey Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halophila</td>
<td>Pinus halophila</td>
<td>Aleppo Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocatina Canadensis</td>
<td>Allocatina altissima</td>
<td>Tree-of-heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melaleuca Ungulata</td>
<td>Melaleuca leucadendron</td>
<td>Weeping Paperbark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### On Limestone Sites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nomenclature as used by JE Brown (1880)</th>
<th>Current Scientific Nomenclature</th>
<th>Current Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casuarina Stricta</td>
<td>Casuarina stricta</td>
<td>Drooping She-oak, Mountain Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinia pseudacacia</td>
<td>Robinia pseudacacia</td>
<td>Black Locust, False Acacia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus Halophila</td>
<td>Pinus halophila</td>
<td>Aleppo Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laricio vari. maritima</td>
<td>Pinus laricio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ficus Macrophylla</td>
<td>Ficus macrophylla</td>
<td>Moreton Bay Fig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress (the common sorts)</td>
<td>Cupressus spp.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Olive Tree (Blue)</td>
<td>Olea europe</td>
<td>Common Olive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### On Good Deep Loamy Soils:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nomenclature as used by JE Brown (1880)</th>
<th>Current Scientific Nomenclature</th>
<th>Current Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinus Halophila</td>
<td>Pinus halophila</td>
<td>Aleppo Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritima</td>
<td>Pinus pinaster var. maritima</td>
<td>Maritime Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus Pinaster</td>
<td>Pinus pinaster</td>
<td>Maritime Pine, Cluster Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiata</td>
<td>Pinus radiata</td>
<td>Monterey Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schinus Molle</td>
<td>Schinus molle</td>
<td>Pepper Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedrus Dendata</td>
<td>Cedrus douglas</td>
<td>Deodar Cedar, Himalayan Cedar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus Suberosa</td>
<td>Quercus suber</td>
<td>Cork Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus Montana</td>
<td>Ulmus glabra</td>
<td>Scotch Elm, Wych Elm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinia pseudacacia</td>
<td>Robinia pseudacacia</td>
<td>Black Locust, False Acacia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ficus Macrophylla</td>
<td>Ficus macrophylla</td>
<td>Moreton Bay Fig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagunaria Patersonii</td>
<td>Lagunaria patersonii</td>
<td>Norfolk Island Hibiscus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casuarina Stricta</td>
<td>Casuarina stricta</td>
<td>Drooping She-oak, Mountain Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cupressus (several)</td>
<td>Cupressus spp.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acacia (several)</td>
<td>Acacia spp.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenela robusta</td>
<td>Grevillea robusta</td>
<td>Silky Oak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Wikaparndo/Park 22) proposed the following species:

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Figure
Plan 24 from Brown’s Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands (1880) depicting Wirranendi/Park 23 and the “Cemetery” notionally excised from the Park itself. There is extensive use of perimeter plantings to disguise the presence of the Cemetery from roadsides, as well as clamp plantings typical of his Gardenesque planting design philosophy. Note the circuitous pathway system proposed and the use of clamp plantings.

Source: Brown (1880).
With Brown’s appointment as ‘Supervisor of the Plantations’, upon the invitation of City of Adelaide Mayor Edwin Smith in April 1882, Brown commenced foundational work in implementing parts of the Report’s (1880) recommendations. The City Gardener (1867-83), William Pengilly (1825-1911) was advised that Brown shall have “general supervision of the tree planting in the Park Lands” and to “render Mr. Brown every facility for this purpose ...” (Town Clerk’s Dept Outwards Letter Book, 1882/602/181). A fractious relationship occurred with Brown and Pengilly, and a specific incident over street tree plantings along Barton Terrace West prompted Brown’s resignation from this position in August 1982. While the Corporation sought to remedy the situation, continued disobedience and contrary activities by the City Gardener and his workforce eventually prompted Brown’s formal resignation on 1 June 1883. In his letter of resignation he wrote “I must for the sake of professional reputation, seek to be relieved of the responsibility.”

With this decision the Corporation determined to sack the Pengilly, and therein had a series of City Gardeners until such time as August Pelzer (1862-1934) was appointed City Gardener (1899-1934) in mid 1899.

During 1883 Pengilly undertook an extensive program of tree planting around the Adelaide Park Lands. In the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24 and Narnungga/Park 25) some “various kinds of trees, 600” were planted. Unfortunately Pengilly provides no advice as to the nature of specimens planted, their locations, and any design approach he was seeking to employ. However, given Brown’s observations and criticism of Pengilly’s planting design philosophy, most of these plantings were often of one species and planted as lines along roadways and pathways. Pengilly also records that he also established one plantation of 2,000 trees in the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24 and Narnungga/Park 25) (Annual Report 1882-83, p. 134, 135).

The practice of using the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24 and Narnungga/Park 25) as a rubbish disposal venue was evident in the 1880s. Land Ranger William Campbell erected 865 panels of post and wire fencing along West Terrace and around the flanks of Tambawodli/Park 24 on Hilton Road and Burbridge Road. Campbell also erected 80 chains of cable-wire fencing along West Terrace in 1888-89 (Annual Report 1888-89, p. 135). During 1889-90 Campbell erected 130 panels of post and wire fencing to the rear of the Observatory, in Tambawodli/Park 24, creating a “new paddock for horses” together with a “new race for horses” within the ‘Paddock’ (Annual Report 1889-90, p. 119).

During 1897-98 Campbell continued fencing works in the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24 and Narnungga/Park 25). He records the erection of 152 panels of post and wire fencing, and the provision of a 488-panelled “castle track” in the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24 and Narnungga/Park 25). The latter was a particular action to enable the safe and secure access of cattle and sheep from the slaughterhouse paddocks to the Keswick rail yards:

New Castle Track—West Park Lands—Although the Thebarton Corporation will not allow cattle to be driven along a portion of their eastern boundary that are intended to be sold at the Adelaide Markets, except at unreasonable hours, and the persons that use the new track are compelled to cross the railway line at the Hilton Road both coming and going, I have not heard of an accident having taken place since my report (Annual Report 1897-98, p. 135).

During 1902-1907 Campbell reported that the ‘Castle Track’ was still in popular use by “persons driving stock to and from the City Sheep and Cattle Markets” (Annual Report 1902, p. 32; 1903, p.46; 1904, p. 66; 1905, p. 56; 1906, p. 64; 1907, p. 73).

With Pelzer’s appointment in 1899 a rigorous planting program of the Park Lands was commenced and it appears that Pelzer somewhat faithfully referred to and used Brown’s Report (1880) as the guiding master plan for this planting activities.

In the subsequent financial year the Corporation acquired a substantial amount of fencing materials from England, including wrought iron posts, wrought iron field gates, cast iron corner posts, galvanized iron pillars together with 117,950 yards (107,835m) of 7-ply galvanized wire. The purpose was to totally replace the existing “old and dilapidated post and two rail fence” that enclosed most of the Park Lands blocks to the Terraces. The cast iron posts and pillars were marked with “Iron Duke” and “Letterewe” branding. Upon arrival, the Park Lands and Gardens staff commenced the process of re-fencing the Park Lands (Annual Report 1883-84, pp. 56-57).

William H Campbell, as Park Lands Ranger, trialled this new fencing on South Terrace and found that he could erect it at a cost of 2½d. per foot. His conclusions were that the fencing was cost-effective, ornamental, offered opportunities for addition access points, and “in a measure complies with Councillor [William] Bullock’s intention to allow of perambulators, &c., having access to our reserves.” Notwithstanding this purchase, staff often proceeded with re-fencing works using old materials (Annual Report 1884-85, pp. 102-105).
One of Pelzer’s first planting actions, upon his appointment, was to plant 33 Pepper Trees (Schinus aereus var. molle) adjacent to the Cemetery:

The holes for which were dug four feet [1.2m] square and three feet [0.9m] deep, and filled with good soil and manure. Sugar baskets, each one fastened to two stakes, have been put around the trees for protection, but tree guards are now being made, and will be put instead as soon as they are ready. The horses depasturing there have been removed, and the Plantation closed (Annual Report 1898-99, p. 150).

Apart from this planting action, Pelzer also appears to have planted a plantation of trees along West Terrace as he reports their early growth in the following twelve months (Annual Report 1899-1900, p. 204). Notwithstanding these initial plantings, for a number of years thereafter Pelzer concentrated his energies and planting activities in the North, South and East Park Lands, and for a number of years there is often no mention of the West Park Lands by him in his detailed Annual Reports.

During 1899-1900 fencing was shifted around the “rubbish tip” in the south-western corner of Wirranendi/Park 23 (Annual Report 1899-1900, p. 204). Notwithstanding these initial plantings, for a number of years thereafter Pelzer concentrated his energies and planting activities in the North, South and East Park Lands, and for a number of years there is often no mention of the West Park Lands by him in his detailed Annual Reports.

During 1899-1900 fencing was shifted around the “rubbish tip” in the south-western corner of Wirranendi/Park 23 (Annual Report 1899-1900, p. 204; 1902, p. 31). This was often called the “blinding tip”—a source of road making materials—and its function was reviewed in 1903 as part of an overhaul of the Corporation’s rubbish venues. The review proposed the continuation of this tip for “some years to come.” An interesting recommendation arising from this review was that “all permanent Depots in the Park Lands will be fenced and hidden with trees and hedges as soon as possible.” Pelzer reports this hedging to be established by 1905 (Annual Report 1903, pp. 28, 29; 1905, p. 64).

In 1901 land to the north of the Cemetery was set aside as a crematorium. This was the site of Australia’s first crematorium. A Crematorium Society was formed in 1890 but it took two years to designate an area for this purpose. The first cremation took place on 4 May 1903. The crematorium was closed on 1 November 1959 and shifted to Centennial Park. The crematoria building was demolished in 1969.

Fencing continued to be a concern of Pelzer for most the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25) in the 1900-10 period. During 1904 the Corporation let a contract to Messrs Geo Wills & Co for the erection of fencing along Bay Road (Anzac Highway) using patent ‘Anchor’ wire fencing upon sawn jarrah posts. A “cattle-race” was established in 1904 to service the southern paddock of Wirranendi/Park 23 and fencing in front of the Catholic Cemetery, and its entrance, were also replaced and painted. Pelzer also caused the erection of “stile posts” along the western side of West Terrace “to keep the traffic off the footpath.” During 1907 Wirranendi/Park 23 was re-fenced along the length of Hilton Road (Annual Report 1904, p. 39; 1904, pp. 66, 74, 75; 1907, pp. 53, 56, 72).

The Corporation’s Parks & Gardens Committee proposed in 1904 an extensive improvement to the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25). Notwithstanding this intention, the Corporation finally approved Pelzer funds to undertake the “works of making a shrubbery and grassing a portion of the West Park Lands between Port and Mile End Roads” in 1905. Pelzer also proposed the planting of trees along both sides of Mile End Road that was executed with 150 Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis) trees. The Planes (Platanus orientalis) appeared to be an unsuccessful choice as Pelzer had to replace 43 of these specimens in 1908, and reports replacing these Planes (Platanus orientalis) in subsequent years with “White Acacia” (Robinia pseudoacacia), English Elm (Ulmus procera), and Ash (Fraxinus spp) trees. At the same time a bicycle path was established on the northern side of Mile End Road.
on October 1924 by Governor General Lord Forster. This Cemetery was administered by the AIF Cemetery Trust.

The political pressure by the petition for the bandstand, and the Corporation’s longstanding promise to undertake a renovation of the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25) started to come to fruition in 1909.

A “compact band stand” was erected within a newly developed “garden reserve of a little more than three acres” that was fenced, and provided with seats and electricity for lighting the bandstand. These works form the original basis for the present Kingston Gardens. The bandstand was designed by Alfred Wells, and W Essery was successful in a tender of £237 for its erection. The garden of some 3¾ acres (1.3ha) was designed by Pelzer and some ten chains of fences and with seven gates had to be erected for this project (Annual Report 1909, pp. 7, 48, 65). Electricity was installed to the bandstand in 1909 at a cost of £40.

A newspaper reported the progress on these works in mid 1909 as follows:

On West Terrace between Gouger Street and Grosvenor Street, preparation is being made for the creation of an ornamental block, embracing about 4 acres (1.6ha) on which the new band rotunda is to be erected. The Council has voted £300 for the work, and the land is now being fenced. Some of the old trees will be removed, and flower-beds and lawns will be brought into existence, so that in course of time the West Wall will be the largest ornamental block in the city. In this quarter of the city’s west end, the people of the city are now looking at every possible means of beautifying the landscape.

In June 1907, the Council passed a resolution that arrangements be made for completing the line of inner fencing in Paddocks Nos. 23 and 24, so as to form a reserve along West Terrace frontage, the work to be carried out in 1908; also that the dead and unsightly trees be removed, in place of which young and selected trees be planted. I [Mayor Frank Johnson] pointed out that as the staff would be so fully employed in attending to other works, it would be absolutely necessary to hold this work over … the Committee, after consideration, … recommended the Council postpone it until next year, 1909 (Annual Report 1908, p. 20).

During the course of this debate Alderman Wells presented to the Corporation a memorial seeking the erection of a bandstand in the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25) “for the benefit of residents in the western end of the city”. A sum of £300 was allocated to this task by the Corporation (Annual Report 1908, p. 20).

In 1904 the Cemetery management negotiated a variation in boundaries under the West Terrace Cemetery Extension Act of 1904. An unoccupied area to the north of the Cemetery, comprising some 18 acres (7.3ha), north of the existing Crematorium reserve and Roman Catholic Cemetery, was relinquished back to the Corporation in favour of some 20 acres (8.1ha) of Park Land immediately west of the Cemetery to the edge of the Keswick rail yards (Annual Report 1903, p. 27).

From 1905 Pelzer re-focused his planting activities upon the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25). In 1904 some 10 Norfolk Island Hibiscus (Lagunaria patersonii) were planted (Annual Report 1904, p. 63) and the Corporation’s Parks & Gardens Committee proposed a park improvement plan for the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25). Much to his frustration Pelzer reported in 1905 that the “scheme for improving the West Park Lands as ordered has also had to stand down” due to a reduction in his Parks & Gardens staff arising from a Corporation budget decision. These “improvement works” were costed at £1,212 in 1908. Pelzer also proposed a planting program that included tree planting on both sides of Mile End Road (Annual Report 1905, pp. 40, 42, 54; 1907, p. 56; 1908, p. 7).

In 1907 a new Cemetery office and residence, on West Terrace, was erected to replace the original 1857 structure. It became known as the Kendrew Oval area. In 1919-20 the Cemetery developed a section dedicated to the Australian Imperial Forces. The first burial occurred in this area on 23 May 1920. The Cross of Sacrifice, constructed from Angaston marble, was dedicated...
Kingston Gardens.—This garden has now been completed. There are seven lawns of various sizes, consisting of couch grass. Five flower beds and borders of various shapes and sizes have been laid out and planted. All the paths have been well formed and dressed with metal screenings. A rustic bridge has been built across the open stormwater drain in the northern portion of the garden. Hedges of Kaffir apple [Dovyalis caffra] plants have been planted along the southern and western fences. A total of 21 various trees, 53 flowering shrubs, 6 palms [Washingtonia sp], and 102 hedge plants have been planted (Annual Report 1912, pp. 98, 99).

During 1910 the Federal government proposed the excision of approximately 40 acres (16.2ha) from the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narrungga/Park 25) “for offices for the district military headquarters staff … on which to erect buildings for military purposes, in return for which the Federal Government offered the parade ground on King William Road with the buildings thereon.” The proposal was hotly debated in both the state parliament and in the Corporation’s chambers, and subsequently withdrawn. As part of its debate and submission the Corporation pointed to the alienation of the Park Lands by government agencies in particular “the Waterworks Yard, and the unsightly Sewers Depot on the western boundary of the City,” and to the Corporation’s past resolution to cease the Sheep and Cattle Markets in Tuyila Wodi/Park 27 and to revert these lands to Park Lands (Annual Report 1910, pp. 24-26).

During 1909 the newly developed garden was named ‘Kingston Park’ in honour of Deputy Surveyor and politician George Strickland Kingston. During December 1909 the Corporation entertained a broad motion by Alderman (later Mayor) Isaac Isaacs for the establishment of playgrounds throughout the municipality, of which Kingston Gardens was included in the list of potential sites (Annual Report 1910, pp. 24, 37).

Pelzer provided a short description for Kingston Gardens in 1910:

Kingston Park.—The Park comprises an enclosed area of four acres [1.6ha]. Only a portion of it has been ploughed, harrowed, levelled, and planted with couch grass. The ground round the band stand has been filled in and sloped toward the lawns (Annual Report 1910, p. 51). Works in realising Kingston Gardens appear to have progressed quite slowly compared to other formal gardens that Pelzer was instructed to develop. During 1910 he erected a toilet block in Kingston Park “of a less ornate character but equally useful” in their purpose. During 1912 Kingston Gardens was one of several venues for Wattle Day celebrations managed by the Kindergarten Union of South Australia on 31 August 1912. Pelzer reported in 1912 the commencement of band concerts in the bandstand—5 in 1912 (Annual Report 1910, p. 61; 1912, pp. 11, 61, 63, 98; 1914, pp. 80, 81). Pelzer’s 1912 descriptive report about Kingston Garden illustrated that the Garden had reached its maturity.
offered and accepted the site. On account of lack of funds and of other reasons the Association was not in a position to take any active steps to establish the playground until the beginning of this year (1914), when, after going thoroughly onto the matter, it was of the opinion the site was unsuitable for the purpose. After an inspection of the West Park Lands another locality was suggested in Wirranendi Park No. 23 running in a southerly direction from Hilton Road and adjoining the Kingston Gardens on the west. It was found that this was also unsuitable, as the area was not only too small but was bounded on three sides by an open drain, which was objectionable and a danger to small children. A space was the chosen in Tambawodi Park No. 24, between the Observatory and the Post and Telegraph Stores, West Terrace, but when plans were prepared it was ascertained that, among other things, the deviation of paths and alterations to the roadway leading to the Corporation Depot would be necessitated. This would have entailed the expenditure of a greater sum than was expected, so the Association looked to Gouger and Wright Streets, to a length of 420 ft. (128m) by a depth of 550 ft. (167.6m), was applied for. The Markets and Parks Committee considered the application on 30th September and 14th October (1914), and, on its recommendation, it was decided to grant the use of the site and that the management of the ground be vested in the Association under an agreement to be entered into with the Corporation. The Government has agreed to provide a supervisor of play for this ground (Annual Report 1918, pp. 26-27).

As part of this development, the Association secured a promise of a grant of £250 from the Education Department “towards the cost of shelter sheds, etc.” The Association, in addition sought Council assistance for the planting of a Coprosma (Coprosma repens) hedge around this playground together with erecting a jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata) post and wire fence, which the Corporation deferred to its 1915 budget deliberations. This development application set in train several applications in North Adelaide, and an additional application for Tambawodi/Park 24 by Sturt Street School. The matter was debated further in 1915, adding the South Park Lands as an additional venue, but with little resolution and action (Annual Report 1916, p. 29; 1917, pp. 26-27).

The West Terrace Playground was the first playground planned for the Adelaide with three acres (1.2ha) of land on West Terrace granted by the Corporation in October 1918. In January 1919 a joint committee of the Association and the Corporation mapped out the ground including the position of buildings and apparatus, with the Corporation agreeing to allocate £30 towards these works and signing an agreement with the Association in August 1919. The Association representatives on this agreement were Miss Tomkinson, and Messrs HW Uffindell and WB Wilkinson. The playground was initially proposed to be built by the South Australian Town Planning and Housing Association (SATPA), but with the Corporation taking the initiative in

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Figure

Extract from a ‘Map of the City of Adelaide’ dated 1917 prepared by the City Engineer that depicts in detail the design layout of Kingston Gardens as developed by Pelzer including pathway system and abstract tree planting, and also fencing and gates. Source: ACC Archives.

Figure

building supervised playgrounds on other sites around the municipality, the immediate need for the West Terrace playground diminished. By 1921 some £337 had been spent on developing the site including “fencing, buildings, and sewers for the ground.” In July 1921 the SATPA invited the Corporation to take over the West Terrace site agreeing to transfer £116 and £120 of funds for the purchase of play equipment. Following this, the scope of the playground was reduced with alterations made to SATPA’s plan, and then eventually fully constructed in 1924. As part of these works the western boundary was shifted eastward, and lawns, hedges and shrubs were planted. Mr RJ Lavis donated funds to purchase a “joy-wheel,” and the Corporation installed a “horizontal ladder, infant swings, a rocking-boat, and Roman rings. In addition there will be a wading-pool and sandpit.” In November 1922 the Corporation called for tender to erect a shelter shed and toilets. Plantings, of “30 trees,” were budgeted at £45 (Annual Report 1921, p. 26; 1922, pp. 19-20; 1923, pp. 18, 20, 37, 38).

The West Terrace Playground was opened on 10 October 1924 by the state Governor amidst “squads of children … [demonstrating] the use of the play articles, and an exhibition of eurythmics …” Kaffir Apple (Dovaylis caffra) hedges had been planted along the western fenceline, 10 seats had been erected, and some 28 trees were planted together with 5 Kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus) trees. Cross fencing was also erected so “to prevent cattle grazing in the adjoining park from congregating near the Playground.” Pelzer had to re-surface all the pathways and re-establish flower borders within the playground in 1925 due to “considerable” storm damage in February, placed battens of the shelter shed southern verandah to delimit wind and rain access, and erected a “giant-strides structure.” In the following year he constructed an “extra sandtray” because of the large attendance in the Playground. In 1927 “additional shade trees” were planted (Annual Report 1924, pp. 31, 37, 39, 40; 1925, p. 34, 36; 1926, p. 40; 1927, p. 30). By 1928 “the well-equipped playground had a full-time supervisor supplied by the Education Department, supplied with a direct telephone line to the police” and was hosting an audience of some 3,000-5,700 children per months between October 1927 to September 1928 (Annual Report 1928, p. 26; Gately 2000, pp. 176).

While the development of the playground was occurring Pelzer continued planting and fencing works in Wirranendi/Park 23. In 1914 the entire railway line fence, along the embankment, was replaced by the Railways Department. The “large Sugar Gums” (Eucalyptus cladocalx) along Catholic Cemetery Road were extensively pollarded and associated fencing reconstructed, the Mile End Road bicycle path was re-sheeted with limestone rubble in 1915 (Annual Report 1914, p. 83; 1915, pp. 66, 70).

With the erection of the stand, band concerts commenced in Kingston Gardens. In 1918 some 4 concerts were recorded; 4 in 1920; 4 in 1921 (Annual Report 1918, p. 25; 1920, p. 15; 1921, p. 24; 1923, p. 18).

During 1918 the Corporation agreed to the provision of 12 special “seats with backs” to be erected adjacent to the Keswick tramline route along the present Anzac Highway. The seats, the design, of which was approved by the military authorities, were “intended especially for the accommodation of sick and wounded soldiers undergoing treatment at No. 7 Australian General...
Hospital, Keswick.” The Corporation also invited additional donations from the public for further seats. In the same year he also records a serious “grass-fire” that occurred on 20 January 1918 that “burnt through the picket fence dividing the cemetery from the Park Lands, and destroyed 92 young gum trees in the plantation adjoining the fence. The trees have been replaced” (Annual Report 1918, pp. 28, 34).

Horse and cattle agistment of Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/24, and Narnungga/Park 25 continued during the 1910s but not without incidents. During 1919 several horses were subjected to considerable ill-treatment by unknown persons:

In May and August of last year [1918] two horses were killed, apparently with blunt instruments, in the Park Lands, and two others were injured. After that there was a respite until 13 May last, when a horse was found with its throat cut in the West Park Lands. Since then, despite the vigilance of the Police and the Corporation’s officers, the following cases have been reported: 24 May, horse’s throat cut in the West Park Lands; 26 May, horse’s throat cut in the West Park Lands; 3 June, mare’s throat cut in the West Park Lands; 10 June, horse killed and two wounded by having their throats cut, one in the South and the other in the West Park Lands; … 3 September, horse’s throat cut in Military Headquarters’ paddock, Keswick; 9 September, horse killed by having its throat cut in the West Park Lands. An attempt was made to detect the criminal or criminals by concentrating in a few parks, the whole of the animals depastured. Two men have been arrested on suspicion, but they were discharged when brought before the Police Court as there was insufficient evidence against them (Annual Report 1919, pp. 31-32).

In the late 1910s Pelzer commenced earthworks and levelling in the northern portion of Wirranendi/Park 23 to address drainage and flooding problems. In 1919 he diverted an open stormwater drain, about 20 chains in length, so as to prevent its waters flowing into the Cemetery grounds. In 1921 a new covered drain was constructed to cater for stormwater from Gouger and Angas Streets. In the south, he filled a “large depression so as to prevent the Keswick bowling greens from being flooded” (Annual Report 1919, p. 46; 1921, p. 37; 1926, p. 41).

Trees and palms characterise much of the West Terrace Cemetery. The sources and dates of many of these plantings are unclear. Several obvious sources are the Botanic Gardens, Forest Board and the Corporation, and each often freely distributing seedlings and young trees in the 1880s-1930s period. The first report of the Corporation providing trees to the Cemetery is in 1908 when some 57 “palms” (Washingtonia spp.) were supplied from palm (Washingtonia spp.) stocks in the Corporation’s West Nursery in Walyo Yerta/Park 27 together with numerous White Cedars (Melia azedarach var. azedarach) (Annual Report 1908, p. 18).

Numerous examples of extant plantings of some cultural heritage significance exist today in the Cemetery and include specimens of:

- **Aleppo Pine** (Pinus halepensis)
- **Cotton Palm** (Washingtonia robusta)
- **Date Palm** (Phoenix dactylifera)
- **Kurrajong** (Brachychiton populneus)
- **Italian Cypress** (Cupressus sempervirens)
- **Moreton Bay Fig** (Ficus macrophylla)
- **Norfolk Island Fig** (Ficus macrophylla)
- **Pepper Trees** (Schinus molle var molle)
- **English Elm** (Ulmus procera)
- **Queensland Box** (Lophostemon confertus)
- **Weeping Pittosporum** (Pittosporum phylliraeoides)

Figure

A plan of locations of significant or identified culturally heritage relevant vegetation within the West Terrace Cemetery recorded as part of the National Environmental Consultancy’s review of the West Terrace Cemetery in c.1995. Source: Source: National Environmental Consultancy c.1995, np.
While planting proceeded inside the Cemetery grounds, occasionally with the Corporation's nursery donations, Pelzer also commenced plantings around the Cemetery. In 1922 he established a pedestrian avenue with 52 False Acacia's (Robinia pseudoacacia) trees from Kingston Garden to the Cemetery. In 1923 the Corporation budgeted for the establishment of a plantation of “135 various trees” along Bay Road (Anzac Highway) at a cost of £180. But in 1927 Pelzer had to take up and replant 81 of these elm (Ulmus procera) trees because of impending road widening works proposed by the Corporation. By 1925 Bay Road was renamed Anzac Highway. During 1925 Pelzer broke up and levelled several large bare areas in Wirranendi/Park 23 and replanted them with seeds of couch and Kentucky blue grass (Annual Report 1922, p. 28; 1923, p. 20; 1925, p. 35; 1927, p. 31).

The future and condition of the Corporations depots in the Park Lands attracted the Councillor’s attention in the 1920s. A tip for road sweepings had long existing in Tambawodli/Park 24 to the rear of the Observatory land but by 1924 was observed as being relatively full. Accordingly, the Corporation proposed:

... that this tip and depot be abolished and the accumulated sweepings removed to the old slaughterhouse paddocks [Park 27] and used there for the filling up of hollows, a new tip being established at the western end of the Hilton Road. This could also be utilized when necessary as a receiving tip for street sweepings and cleared regularly by means of one of the motor-lorries (Annual Report 1924, p. 5).

Pelzer executed this recommendation over 1924-25 and opened up a new tip in Wirranendi/Park 23 later called "Turner’s Tip".

During 1925 the Corporation proposed the extensive widening of West Terrace, between Sturt Street and South Terrace, removing most of the street trees on the western side (Annual Report 1925, p. 74). The Corporation actioned this motion in 1927, and directed Pelzer to undertake the following planting works:

(1) Park No. 23—Planting four large groups of trees so as to hide the West Terrace Cemetery from passing trains. Estimated cost of fencing and planting, £70.

(2) Planting West Terrace between Sturt Street and South Terrace: (a) a hedge of Kaffir apple (Dovyalis caffra) along the Cemetery wall to be trained to a height of about 10 feet [3.0m]; (b) removal of some of the overgrown ill-shaped stunted trees and replacing with ornamental trees, the whole area to be levelled and sheeted with metal screenings. Estimated cost, £180 (Annual Report 1926, p. 18).

To action these works Pelzer had to remove an open stormwater drain along the Cemetery boundary wall and lay pipes and refill the drain line. A trench, 0.6 x 0.6m, had to be excavated and filled with new soils to enable the planting of Kaffir Apple (Dovyalis caffra) hedge plants. Some 17 ash trees (Fraxinus spp) were planted in West Terrace as part of these works (Annual Report 1927, pp. 30, 31).

Road widening works were also projected for Anzac Highway in 1927 prompting Pelzer to relocate 81 English Elms (Ulmus procera) along the eastern side of the road. State Governor Sir Tom Bridges, drew attention to Anzac Highway in a letter to the Corporation dated 17 December 1928 suggesting the Highway should be a “slow thoroughfare” arguing that the roadsides should be planted with “English trees which lose their leaves in the winter, or perhaps Californian pines.” A further 58 “various trees” were planted in Wirranendi/Park 23 in 1929 (Annual Report 1927, p. 31; 1928, p. 5; 1929, p. 35).

During 1927 one tennis court was erected in Wirranendi/Park 23 (Annual Report 1928, p. 45).
Hemming has observed that during the 1930s-50s Aboriginal children, resident in the west Adelaide locality, would use Wirranendi/Park 23 around the Playground as a camping venue when there was not enough accommodation space in houses (Hemming 1998, p. 58).

On 29 February 1932 Pelzer retired and the Corporation commenced a reorganisation of the City Gardener’s Branch (Annual Report 1931-32, p. 27). Following Pelzer’s retirement a sequence of gardeners and a change of commitment to the gardens and the Park Lands is evident throughout Adelaide notwithstanding the Centenary of South Australia celebrations in 1936. Further, little attention by City Gardeners and the Council of the West Park Lands also occurs until the 1960s, less to progressive changes to plantings and borders in Kingston Garden (Annual Report 1935-36, p. 37).
Figure
Extract of a Plan Showing Improved Pavements, 14 November 1927, depicting the parks, gardens, boundary alignments and internal roadways in 1927 in Wirranendi/Park 23. Source: ACC Archives.

Figure
Extract of an aerial photograph of metropolitan Adelaide taken in 1936 indicating the scope of extant tree perimeter, shelterbelt and clump plantings that had been established and undertaken under Pelzer’s tenure in Wirranendi/Park 23. Source: ACC Archives.
In 1944 the AIF cemetery section was extended southwards into Wirranendi/Park 23, under the Return Soldiers Cemetery Act 11 of 1944 that alienated about 2 acres (0.8ha) of the Park Lands.

Prior to the successful 1967 federal referendum on Aboriginal citizenship the West Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, and Narnungga/Park 25) was a venue for regular Indigenous encampments (Hemming 1998, p. 17).

In 1971 the southern portion of Wirranendi/Park 23 was designated as ‘Edwards Park’ to honour Councillor Edwards.

In 1976 the management of the West Terrace Cemetery was reconstituted under the West Terrace Cemetery Act No 57 of 1976 that consolidated and revised past legislation that affected the Cemetery.

During the 1980s-2000 the Corporation undertook an extensive native tree species planting program in the western portion of the northern Wirranendi/Park 23 including the development of perennial wetlands and shallow stormwater retarding basins. To the south west of the Cemetery, an area has been planted out with a variety of non-indigenous native tree species, which are for the most part from Western Australia and New South Wales.

The West Terrace Cemetery Conservation Plan (c.1995) proposed the following statement of significance for the West Terrace Cemetery:

This combination of factors means that the West Terrace is one of the dozen most significant burial grounds in Australia (National Environmental Consultancy c.1995, p. np).

In 2001 Art for Public Places, in conjunction with the City of Adelaide, commissioned the successful winners of a limited design competition, artists Jude Walton and Aleks Daniko, to undertake their ‘Lie of the Land’ installation on both sides of Sir Donald Bradman Drive near the railway bridge as part of an entry gateway statement for Adelaide. The materials were Kanmantoo stone, granitised sand, Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra).

During 2005 it was observed that mature to elderly English Elm (Ulmus procera) trees were dying in Wirranendi/Park 23 near Kingston Gardens and in parts of Narnungga/Park 25 presumably due to reductions in the irrigation and watering regimes applied by the Corporation ([Hough 2005, p. 16]). This observation was confirmed through investigations by Arbortech Tree Services who concluded that reductions in the irrigation and watering regimes, in fulfilling the Corporation's sustainability policy outcomes, had increasingly placed stress upon the mature English Elm (Ulmus procera) trees “predisposing them to infestation by Scolytus multistriatus, or the Elm Bark Beetle”; a beetle that increases the vulnerability of Elm (Ulmus spp) trees to the lethal
Dutch Elm Disease. The same investigation noticed increased stress being placed upon mature to elderly specimens of False Acacia (Robinia pseudoacacia), and White Cedar (Melia azedarach var. australasica) in the same localities (Arborotech Tree Services 2006, pp. 1-7).

In assessing the botanical significance of Wirranendi/Park 23, Long (2003, p. 50) has written:

There is a plantation west of the Cemetery near the Mile End Railway Yards that has been planted with local indigenous species. The species chosen in this plantation reflect species that would have formed the Mallee Woodland that once occupied this area, and include such species as Wreath Wattle (Acacia acinacea), A. pycnantha, Kangaroo Thorn (A. pycnantha), Umbrella Bush (A. ligulata), Callitris preissii, Diastella revolute var. revolute, Native Lilac (Hardenbergia violacea), Eucalyptus porosa, Twiggy Daisy-bush (Olearia ramulosa), Short-leaf Bluestem (Maireana bregifolia) and Lemon-grass (Cymbopogon ambiguus). Chloris truncata was also found occurring naturally in the area.

Amery (1997, p. 1; 2002, p. 271) proposed the toponym Wirranendi, meaning ‘to become wirra’ or ‘to become transformed into a green, forested area’, to the park. The nomenclature is derived from *wirra* meaning ‘forest’ and *nendi* meaning ‘to be transformed into’. The name was first used by Urban Ecology Australia Ltd to describe their Halifax Eco-City Development in early 1996. The toponym gives recognition to the several surviving indigenous plant species in this park, including the native apricot growing in the Cemetery, and the Corporation’s actions to revegetate a large tract of Wirranendi/Park 23 in indigenous species (Draper et al. 2005, p. 73).