
3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS & SQUARES

3.1.2 Padipadinyilla/Park 2 Report



Padipadinyilla/Park 2**Historical Overview: Site Context**

Arising from Light's plan, Padipadinyilla/Park 2 consists of 17.8ha of land bounded by Jeffcott Street, Prospect Road, Fitzroy Terrace, and Barton Terrace. No boundary changes occurred subsequent to the spatial survey of Padipadinyilla/Park 2.

Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations

There are no specific references to Kurna sites or activities, pre-contact or post-contact, for Padipadinyilla/Park 2 (Hemming 1998).

It has been claimed, however, that Padipadinyilla/Park 2 hosted intermittent camping by the Kurna as the locality was on several movement and trade routes, and there was a lot of game in the vicinity (Draper *et al* 2005, p. 56).

Historical Overview: Post-Contact Associations

From the 1850s to the late 1870s Padipadinyilla/Park 2 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 Padipadinyilla/Park 2.

With the engagement of John Ednie Brown to prepare a *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880) Brown recorded that the area consisted of a light scatter of planted trees, with a straggly plantation strip along the flank of Barton Terrace. "The trees planted are chiefly Gums (*Eucalyptus rostrata*), with an occasional Frenela robusta [*Grevillea robusta*], Casuarina stricta [*Allocasuarina verticillata*], and Pinus Halepensis [*Pinus halepensis*] [sic]" (Brown 1880, p. 20). In examining Padipadinyilla/Park 2 was characterised by "poor and somewhat exposed character, and it lies under the very great disadvantage (in an arboricultural point of view) of the geological stratum being, for the greater part, of limestone, and somewhat inclined to be of a saline nature." The soil, was also, noted as being "very thin indeed" making any tree selecting and successful planting difficult (Brown 1880, p. 20).

In 1879 the Corporation "obtained the sum of £375 for the limestone in Barton Terrace paddock" which accorded with John Ednie Brown's interim recommendations (*Annual Report* 1879-80, p. 105).

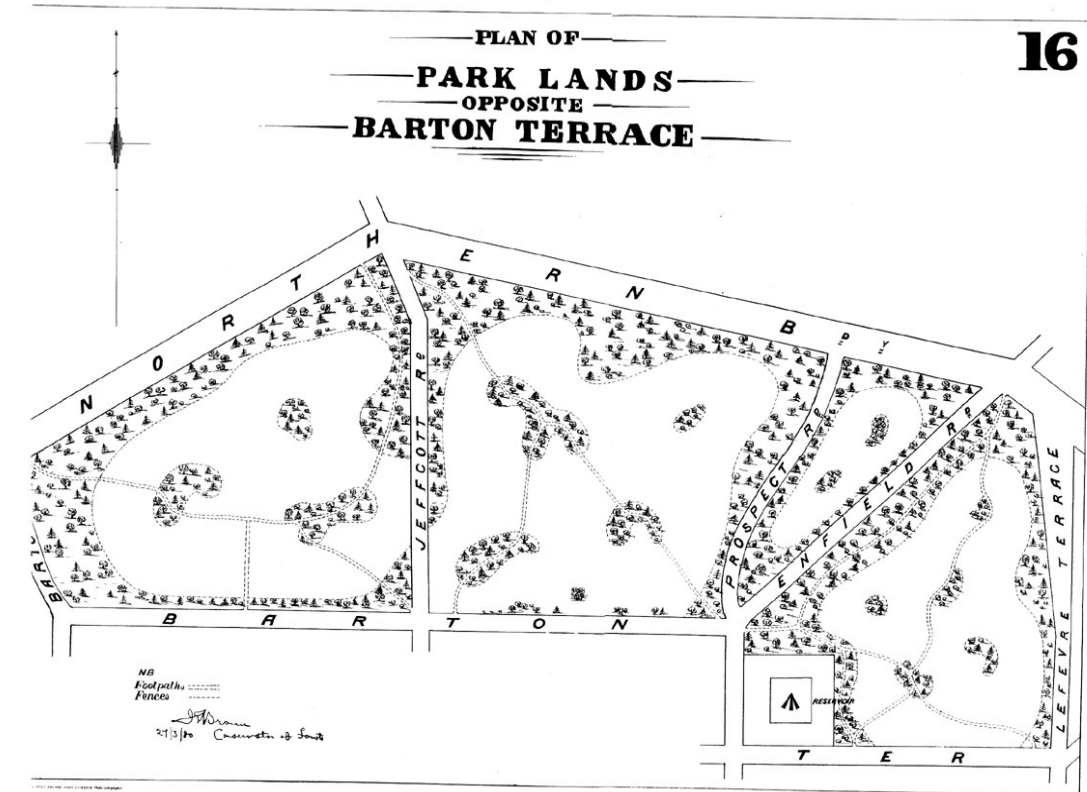
Brown's specific recommendations were:

That plantations be formed round the eastern, northern, and western boundaries ... with groups and clumps of trees here and there in the body of the grounds as shown on Plan 16. Before planting is undertaken ... the limestone should be removed as much as possible, and the particular sites selected for the young trees made up with plenty of good rich soils. ... It will ... be a matter for careful inspection, when the enclosures are being operated on, to select for planting those parts upon which there is the greatest depth of soil. By doing this, and planting such spots only, picturesque irregularity will be secured and fair results may be anticipated. ...

I have also to recommend that footpaths be constructed through the grounds as represented on the Plan. Following is a list of those kinds of trees which may be planted on the block ..., with fair chance of their succeeding upon the site:-

Pinus Halepensis, P. Pinaster, P. Laricio, P. Maritima, Robinia Pseudacacia, Casuarina Stricta, Ficus Macrophylla, Schinus Molle, Gevilea Robusta, Melaleuca Trichostachya (and others) (Brown 1880, p. 20)

The species mentioned in the above quote are, in sequence, known as: *Pinus halepensis*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus laricio*, *Pinus maritima*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Ficus macrophylla*, *Schinus aerea* var *molle*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Melaleuca* sp.



With Brown's appointment as 'Supervisor of the Plantations', upon the invitation of City of

Figure
Extract: *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880), Map 16.

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, 1882/602/18). 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 1882. 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 City Gardener, and therein had a serious of City Gardeners until such time as August Pelzer (1862-1934) was appointed City Gardener (1899-1934) in mid 1899.

With Pelzer's appointment a rigorous planting program of the Park Lands was and is appears that Pelzer somewhat faithfully referred to and used Brown's *Report* as the guiding master plan for these planting activities. In Padipadinyilla/Park 2, from c.1880-1934 perimeter plantations were established together with a path *allée* of Radiata Pines (*Pinus radiata*), a series of clumped

plantings, and an open woodland of Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladoclayx*) and River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) in the north western corner. On the southern flank to Barton Terrace an allée Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and a mixture of Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* var. *oxycarpa*) and Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*) were planted; of these the Figs and Hibiscuses have grown but are severely stunted by the soil and geological conditions whereas the Ash have thrived. The paths were laid out in accordance with Brown's Report (1880) and generally the side plantations were commenced. A lone specimen of a Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) was also planted, perhaps a visual accent at the northern visual termination of O'Connell Street that continues to thrive as a significant horticultural specimen today.

During 1894 the Barton Terrace allée of Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*) were planted. "When it will be finished it will be an ornament to the locality, and beautify the outlook of property in the neighbourhood," claimed Mayor Charles Wilcox (*Annual Report 1894-95*, p. 65).

During the late 1910s electric tramways were constructed along O'Connell Street and splitting to move along Prospect Road and the Main North Road to service the Prospect and Enfield suburbs to Adelaide. As part of these construction works, a large timber and galvanised iron gabled shelter structure, with associated timber picket fencing, was erected on the corner of Barton Terrace and Prospect Road in the Edwardian style. A two storey brick and gabled galvanised iron structure was erected immediately behind this shelter to house the tram cabling equipment. Both structures were removed in the 1940s (Furlong 1988, p. 23).

From the 1930s to the early 1960s little planting changes and works occurred on Padipadinyilla/Park 2. The ovals were developed together with a series of enclosed tennis courts in the north-west corner, along Prospect Road, and along Fitzroy Terrace.

In early 1964 a proposal evolved for the relocation of the Adelaide Swimming Pool functions to Padipadinyilla/Park 2, from its site on King William Road now occupied by the Adelaide Festival Centre. A site was selected in the north-west corner resulting in the felling of a large portion of the main tree pathway allée through the Park, but the retention of the now mature Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladoclayx*) and River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) woodland. Reputedly a small pond existed on the site of the swimming centre. Additional Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* var. *oxycarpa* 'Raywoodii') plantings occurred with the construction of the car park associated with the Adelaide Swimming Centre, later renamed the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. The Centre with its three pools was constructed in 1968-69, enclosed and transformed into an international standard complex in 1985 at a cost of \$8.25 million, and renovated again in 1998 (Daly 1987: 81, 152). Premier John Bannon once commented that,

The swimming pool is there, a fact of life ... the view of it as you fly over in the evening is quite remarkable. It is like a great glowing pyramid ... a thing from outer spaces. From the ground, particularly as the trees and vegetation develop around it, it will not be, and isn't really at the moment, visually intrusive (Bannon in Daly 1987: 152).

There is no substantive significance in the use of this complex as a swimming centre, however the principle building holds architectural merit as an important example of Hassell's design work that reflects a late Adelaide Regionalist character.

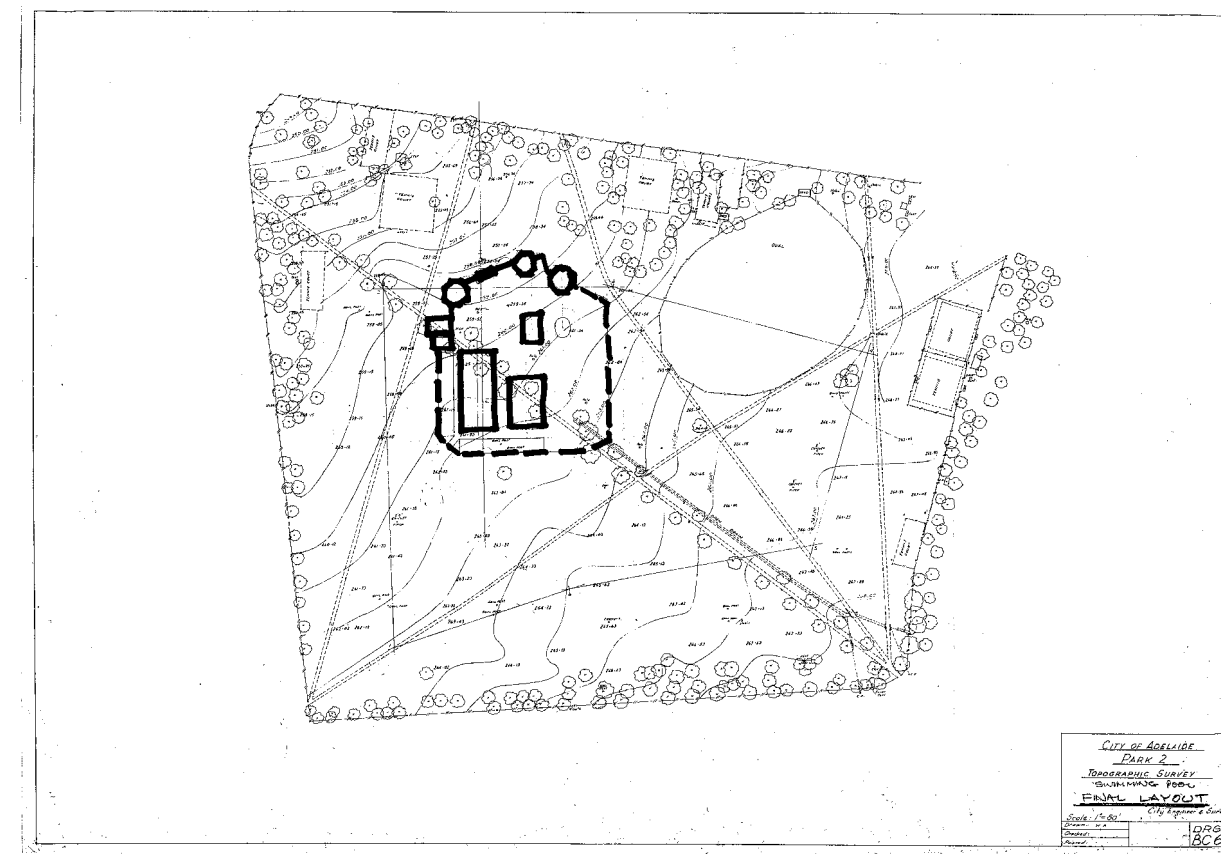


Figure
Site Survey of Padipadinyilla/Park 2 in 1964 indicating pathways, sporting areas, plantings and topography, and in large lines the agreed footprint of the proposed Adelaide Swimming Centre. Source: ACC Archives

In 1988, following a design competition, the Corporation commissioned landscape architect Ian Barwick to prepare designs for a new playground adjacent to the Aquatic Centre. The Corporation had philosophically decided to concentrate several of its play facilities rather than scatter them around the municipality and "to create a playpark which had critical mass, a playpark which would become a destination landscape in its own right" (Barwick 1998: 218). As Barwick stated:

The site consisted of a 22 metre open, sunlit, lawn area enclosed by two curvilinear mounds and stands of Pine trees and Sugar Gums. James Hubbard of Megatoy and I combined on the design, presentation, planning and construction. ... Our ambition was to play in our own playpark (Barwick 1998: 218).

Amery (1997; 2002, p. 269) proposed the toponym of *Padipadinyilla* meaning 'swimming place' for this park. The toponym gives acceptance to the post-contact Adelaide Aquatic Centre with *padipadinya* meaning 'swimming', *padendi* 'to swim' and *-illa* 'loc'. This toponym has been adopted for use by Council.

Padipadinyilla/Park 2 consists today as bearing the underpinning plantings and planting design pattern as proposed by Brown in his Report (1880). It possesses a spatially strong collection of Radiata and Canary Island Pines (*Pinus radiata*, *Pinus canariensis*), Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrocarpa*) and Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*), with a plantation of Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* var. *oxycarpa* 'Raywoodii') in the new car park. During the 1960s-1980s an additional eclectic collection of Australian Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* ssp. and *Corymbia* ssp), Wattles (*Acacia* ssp), and shrubs have been planted along the northern and eastern edges of the Park

lessening the visual integrity of the Park and the adherence to the original *Brown Report* (1880) plan. Thus, because of the date and irregularity of the planting, the age and character of the Park visually bears little of this philosophical approach.