

~~HEIDELBERG~~ ~~CONSERVATION~~
HEIDELBERG
CONSERVATION
STUDY



PART 2 HISTORIC RIVERLAND
LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT
LODER & BATLY MARILYN M'BRIAR

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL



83329

HEIDELBERG CONSERVATION STUDY
PART II

HISTORIC RIVERLAND
LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

FOR
HEIDELBERG CITY COUNCIL

BY
LODER & BAYLY
MARILYN MCBRIAR

OCTOBER, 1985.

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**HEIDELBERG CONSERVATION STUDY - PART II
HISTORIC RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT**

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Arthur Streeton 1867-1943 Australian
Near Heidelberg, 1890
Oil on canvas
52.1 x 39.5 cm.
Felton Bequest 1943

1. PROJECT OUTLINE

1.01 STUDY BRIEF & CONTEXT

The Heidelberg Council through its Heidelberg Heritage Advisory Committee has been undertaking conservation studies of its City to provide it with the background research and management guidelines to protect, preserve and conserve those places of historical interest and quality. The first of these studies concentrated upon the built-up areas while this study concentrates upon the riverlands.

This study has been undertaken primarily by Nick Safstrom, Landscape Architect; Gay Cross, Graphic Artist, of Loder & Bayly, Planning & Design, Engineering & Landscape Consultants with specialist support from . Marilyn McBriar, Landscape Historian and Gwen McWilliam, Historical Research. The consultant team has had enormous community and public support. We especially thank:

Heidelberg Heritage Advisory Committee.
 Heidelberg Heritage Advisory Committee - Landscape Sub-committee;
 Mr. Michael Jensen, Planner, City of Heidelberg;
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 State Library of Victoria and La Trobe Library;
 University of Melbourne Archives;
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 National Gallery of Victoria (Department of Prints and Drawings);
 Warrigal Conservation Society;
 City of Heidelberg Library;
 M.M.B.W. Library;
 W.G. Miles and Co.

Mr. Leigh Astbury, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Mrs. Elva Bott, Mrs. Bess Brudenell, Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Helen Fiddler, Mr. Ian Fleming, Dr. David Frankel, Mr. Isaac Goldstein, Dr. Beth Gott, Mr. and Mrs. Irvine Green, Mr. Murray Griffin, Dr. Richard Haese, Mrs. Gwen Hill, Mrs. Beryl Jarman, Mrs. Cathie Leslie, Ms. Ann McGrath, Mrs. and Mrs. Ian McInnes, Professor Margaret Plant, Mr. David Pollock, Mrs. Hazel Poulter, Cr. Jim Poulter, Mr. Garry Presland, Mrs. Debbie Richards, Mrs. Judy Scofield, Mrs. Joan Scott, Ms. Susie Shears, Mrs. Annie Smith, Mr. Frank Strahan, Ms. Jacqueline Templeton, Mrs. E. Trewarne, Mr. Frank Watts, Mrs. Margaret Willison and the many members of the Heidelberg Historical Society for help and their kind welcome.

The brief* for the Heidelberg Historic Landscape Assessment called for the identification and documentation of the important heritage characteristics of the riverland regions within Heidelberg. The objectives for the study called for the documentation of the history of the area, particularly as it related to the development and change of landscape character; the identification of areas, or precincts, with similar historical landscape identity; the undertaking of existing conditions and particular surveys, and reviews of existing planning and management proposals; and finally the making of recommendations, based upon the study, and with a historical conservation bias for each of the precincts suggesting ideas for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of those landscapes considered historically important.

*See Appendix A.

1.02 STUDY PROCESS

Neither the Steering Committee nor the consultants were aware of a precedent for a study of this type dealing essentially with landscape issues. While buildings and structures are reasonably easy to identify, date, describe and assess for significance; landscapes by their very nature develop and evolve slowly presenting an ever changing scene reflecting landform, past and current land-use, past and current trends in land management and the removal and growth of vegetation.

We find today that many of the landscapes of the study area contain remnants of many periods, each of importance and viable in today's setting. It is equally true that these landscapes will continue to change and cannot be frozen in time. Not only will vegetation come and go but land-uses will change as community needs dictate.

We have held the view for some time that strong landscape structure and character can absorb changes in land-use and detail elements. With this in mind we decided to concentrate our task on identifying the essential landscape images and character for different periods and places, rather than focusing on detail alone. It was felt that with this bias, this study would more effectively lead to recommendations which would in turn lead to viable quality landscapes responding, where appropriate, to historical characteristics.

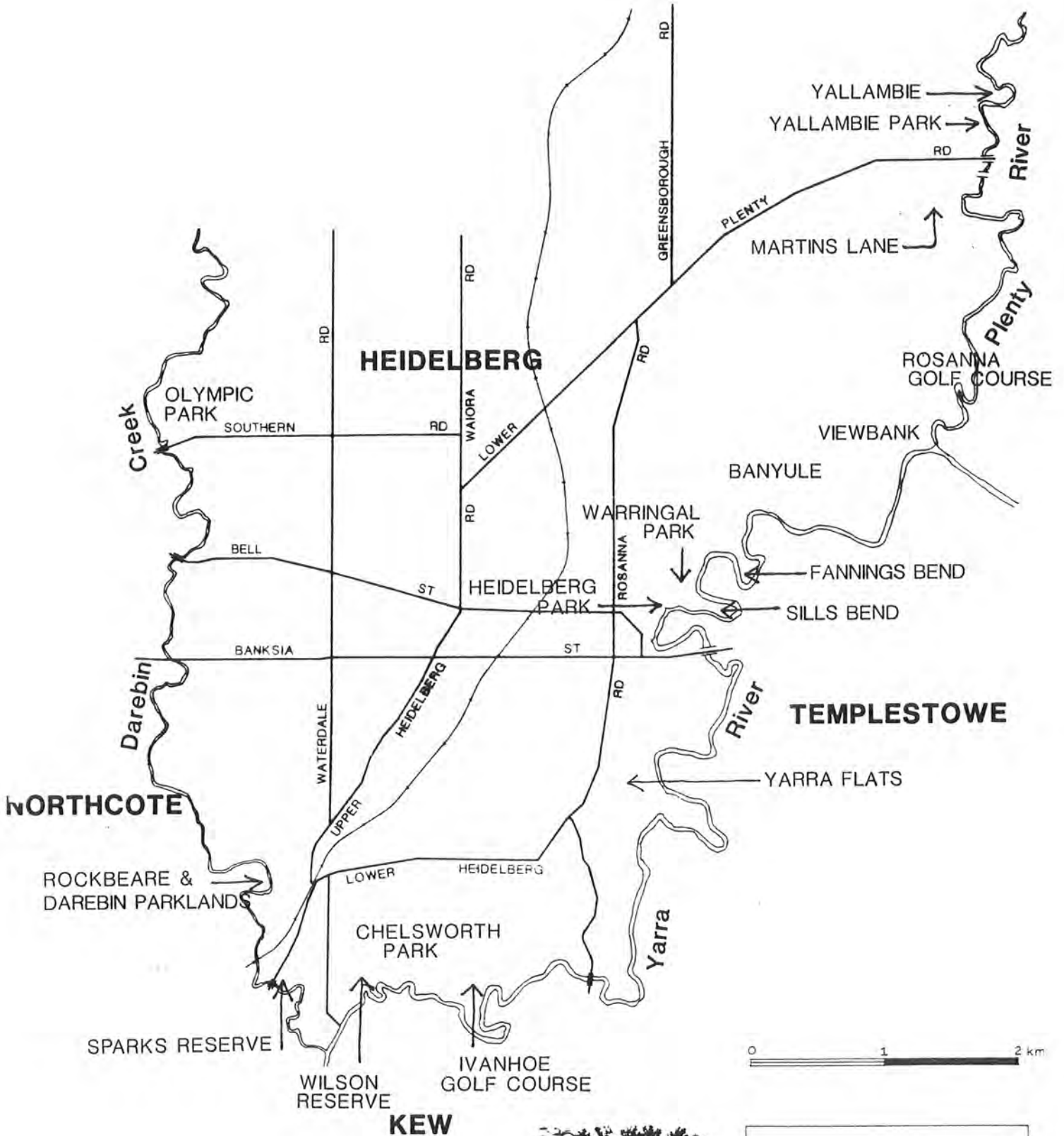
The study became a search for spirit of place for each area. This spirit may pertain essentially to a landscape where one historic period dominates or to a composite landscape, i.e. made up from elements from various periods. While this composite character may in some places lead to discordant landscapes, at others it can lead to a richness of character. This is indeed fortunate as it is rarely easy or desirable to turn back the landscape clock to a particular time in history.

It is important to note that we did not hold to the view that the significance of a place was dependent upon it retaining physical elements from special historic periods. Significance may be solely based upon the place where major social or natural events occurred, or in the overall "feel" of the place; e.g. comparatively little remains of the fabric that inspired the "Heidelberg School" artists, but the total landscape still embodies a sense of the scale, vista, foreground and sky that they painted and for many people embody a particular "Australian" ethos.

Given our attitudes as set out above the study process evolved and developed in eight basic steps as set out under.

1. Brief historical overview to establish key periods within which natural or historical events determined particular landscape images.
2. Historical research within each period to find information on land-use, life style, land ownership, landscape pattern, landscape elements and of critical importance the appearance of the landscape for each period.
3. Site survey to identify existing site conditions and character, precincts or areas of similar landscape types, and any historical features including vegetation.
4. Analysis of historical research to identify any key places or areas for each of the periods and to identify potential places or periods of significance.
5. Synthesis of the above analysis and site survey data to establish key precincts for detailed study.
6. Detailed historical research for each of the key precincts establishing the events, landscape elements and characteristics that signify that precinct within a particular period or periods.
7. Analysis of opportunities, constraints and results from 3 and 6 above to develop landscape recommendations for each precinct with an emphasis on the key elements.
8. Documentation of sufficient detail for use as guidelines in the realising of the key recommendations.

The only variation that occurred in the study to the process as described, was the development of draft recommendations prior to detailed historical research being fully advanced. This was done in order to give the study greater focus more clearly concentrate the research and enable invaluable discussions with the Steering Committee.



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

LOCATION MAP



2. SUMMARY

2.01 THE STUDY SITE

Heidelberg is located 10 kilometres from the centre of Melbourne, bounded on the southern side by the Yarra River which flows on through Melbourne to the Bay. The City of Heidelberg is bounded on three sides by permanent streams and it is the lands adjacent to these streams, now essentially preserved as open space, that are the subject of this study.

Heidelberg is flat to undulating country. However, the land adjacent to the streams presents considerable variety as a result of historic erosion patterns. The Eastern and Western bounding streams, the Darebin and Plenty respectively, commence through the area in reasonably deep cuttings. The Darebin remains fairly narrow with occasional flats in the broader bends. The Plenty also remains depressed but with more undulating side slopes. The Yarra through the study area however is situated in a fairly broad flood plain with steep, undulating and gentle edges. The Plenty enters and crosses the Yarra flood plain just prior to its confluence with the Yarra.

A feature of Heidelberg are the exclusive views afforded by the higher ground looking out over the Yarra flood plains to close hills and distant ranges. The river edges are now generally dominated by local gums and the parkland open, contrasting with built up suburbs.

2.02 HISTORICAL - OUTLINE SKETCH (Summary of Section 3.02).

BROAD CHANGES IN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE RIVERLANDS

With the coming of the Europeans most of the riverlands' natural clothing of local plants was ripped away rapidly, especially on the rich alluvial flats, to create a new landscape geared to current methods of production of foods and other materials quite alien to the place. Cereals, vegetables, grape vines, hops, fruit trees and bushes were planted; strange animals grazed on the native grasses left elsewhere. At the same time, ornamental plantings set in train, as well as intended consequences, unintended ones, like the escape of hawthorn, briar and gorse from garden and hedge.

Cultivation intensified in many sections of the riverlands during the gold rushes of the 1850's but in the 60's a new landscape was established: one of pasture, scattered trees and dairy cattle. This landscape endured for a very long time (in terms of



NATIVE ENCAMPMENT ON YARRA
LATROBE COLLECTION



Eugen von Guerard 1811-1901 Australian
The Yarra Ranges seen from a Hill near Heidelberg, 1858
Pen, Indian ink and wash drawing
33.8 x 50.3 cm.
Purchased 1948

white history) and was the dominant landscape type in that (large) part of Heidelberg which was not built up. There were still patches of cultivation here and there and from time to time, but they were incidental to the pastoral scene until, with the 1920's there came a movement to convert sections of the riverlands into parkland, a process still continuing.

IMPORTANT PHASES IN THE HISTORY OF THE RIVERLANDS

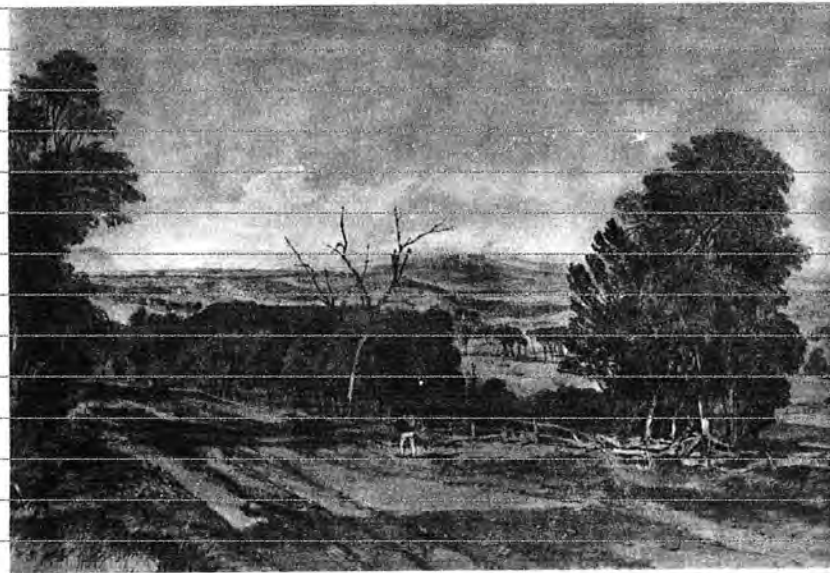
These changing riverlands are not large in acreage but they have been of great significance in our history. "Our" here refers to both black and white Australians.

Much research remains to be made into the pre-history (and history) of the Woiworung often referred to as the (Warundjerei), whose land included Heidelberg when the whites arrived, but it is clear that the valleys of Heidelberg's streams were of central importance to the blacks. Natural watercourses, lagoons and so on are bound to be vital to men without the technology (or desire) to transport water from where it naturally occurs and, moreover, the valleys were rich in game, foods and other useful materials. We also know that the Yarra Valley, at least, had other roles to play in the life of the Woiworung and, indeed, of the other tribes of Central Victoria who made up a loose association sometimes called the Kulin. The Yarra flats near Heidelberg were a meeting place, not just for the groups which made up the Woiworung, but occasionally for all the Kulin tribes. Important rituals were carried out at these meetings. The large supply of eels made these great gatherings possible but was probably not the only reason the site was chosen, for the flats were a part of the Dreamtime pathway along the Yarra: they were places steeped in legend.

The white history of the riverlands has encompassed phases and activities which also far transcend local significance. The short time that squatters grazed their flocks and sawyers cut timber began great changes to the landscape shaped by nature and the aborigines, but it is of no great weight in the story of Australian squatters or the exploitation of Australian forests. The first permanent settlement, however, saw the setting up of what have been called prestige estates, especially along the Yarra, and these have a national significance. Gentlemen - or would-be gentlemen - established fine estates with an eye, not only to profit, but to the creation of a life and setting fit for gentry. This occurred elsewhere in Victoria and in Australia, of course, but the Heidelberg estates, although not unique, were a special place for the social elite of the new colony. The period of their true specialness was fleeting - it was in many ways virtually ended by the gold rushes of the 1850's, but the estates' importance for the development of



BANYULE HOUSE - Pencil & wash



VALE OF HEIDELBERG - hand
coloured lithograph

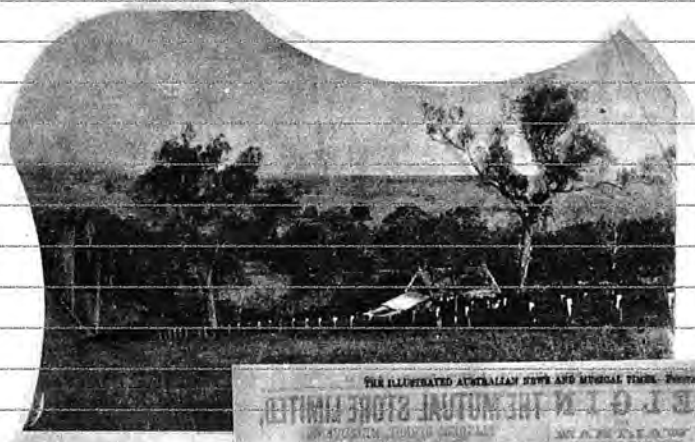


YARRA 1855 -
pencil

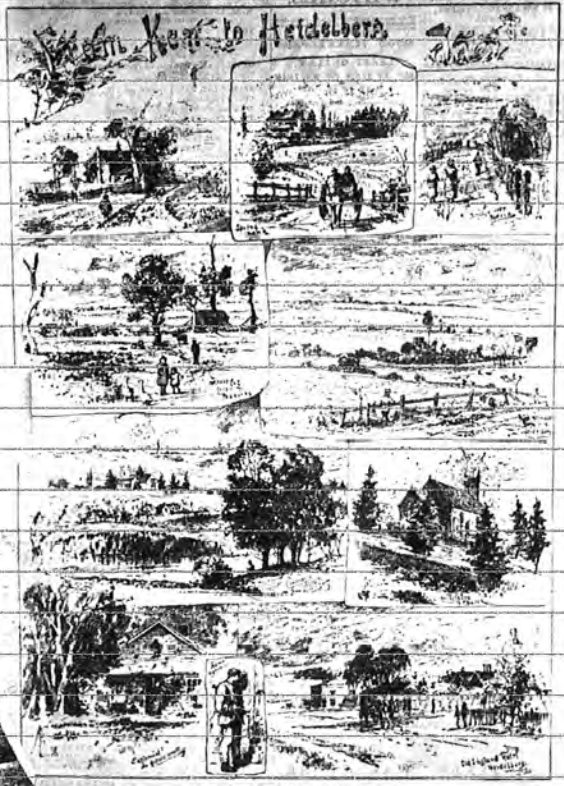
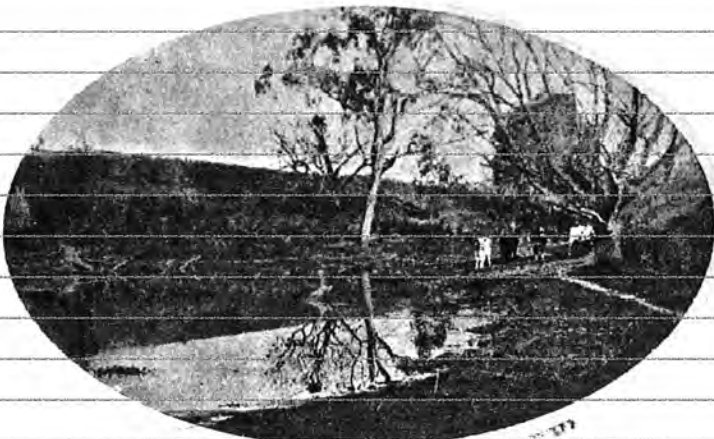
Victorian agriculture continued into that decade. The sudden increase in demand for food and fodder gave Heidelberg's alluvial flats an almost inestimable advantage for this short time. Thus the estates played their part in the development of agriculture and the consequent transformation of the landscape as well as in our social and cultural history. (But for the gold rushes those latter roles might have loomed even larger?)

A complex of factors, of which the most dramatic was the flood of December 1863, led to the collapse of the intensive cultivation of the flood-prone areas in the district. Dairying became the predominant land-use. Heidelberg became a quiet backwater, increasingly neglected, run down, and even derelict in some places. Paradoxically, this period of decline or stagnation - or that part of it from the end of the 1880's to the early years of this century have come to be recognised as having the greatest historical significance. Heidelberg had always attracted visitors, and these had always included artists, but the end of the 1880's saw the establishment of what became known as the Heidelberg School at their famous camp on Mt. Eagle, looking out over the spacious Yarra Valley to the ranges. Roberts, Streeton, Conder and McCubbin can be said to have had much to do with the shaping of Australians' perceptions of their environment. There is at present much debate about the meaning and precise role of their work, but their popularity and influence cannot be doubted. The famous images of the Heidelberg riverlands and other subjects in the surrounding district have become some of the best known and best loved in Australian Art. For many Australians they have come to represent an essential part of the Australian landscape - perhaps even the essence of that landscape. These images are part of an even wider range - some of them perhaps equally loved - produced by Withers, Davies and Fox, especially.

Heidelberg continued to be a haunt of artists and an inspiration to them. Paradoxically again, reaction against the long and overwhelming influence of the Heidelberg School in Art in this century has had much to do with the Heidelberg district, most importantly at Heidelberg. There Sydney Nolan, in the early 1940's, painted a pastoral landscape which had survived virtually intact from the days of the Heidelberg School, but he painted it in a revolutionary way while paying tribute to his great predecessors. The Yarra Valley then, and the Darebin's and Plenty's too, have provided many subjects for artists. Through them these pastoral landscapes attained even richer significance. They are special, sometimes unique, yet at the same time they can be held to represent certain general truths about the Australian landscape at large.



THE ILLUSTRATED AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND MERCANTILE TIMES. PUBLISHED BY THE MUTUAL STORE LIMITED. 100, QUEEN STREET, MELBOURNE.



LA TROBE COLLECTION
 STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA
 "WEEKLY TIMES" &
 "AUSTRALASIAN" c 1901-1909

So the riverlands - or, rather, large parts of them - may be said now to have achieved great significance from their aboriginal past, from the prestige estates of the gentlemen proprietors and from the major paintings they have inspired.

The conservationist movement of Heidelberg gives the riverlands another enrichment of meaning and importance. The history of this movement in its Victorian and Australian context remains to be researched and written, but it seems safe to say that the Heidelberg movement was of great, and perhaps central importance in the recent story of the Victorian conservationist struggle, with all its philosophical political and economic implications.

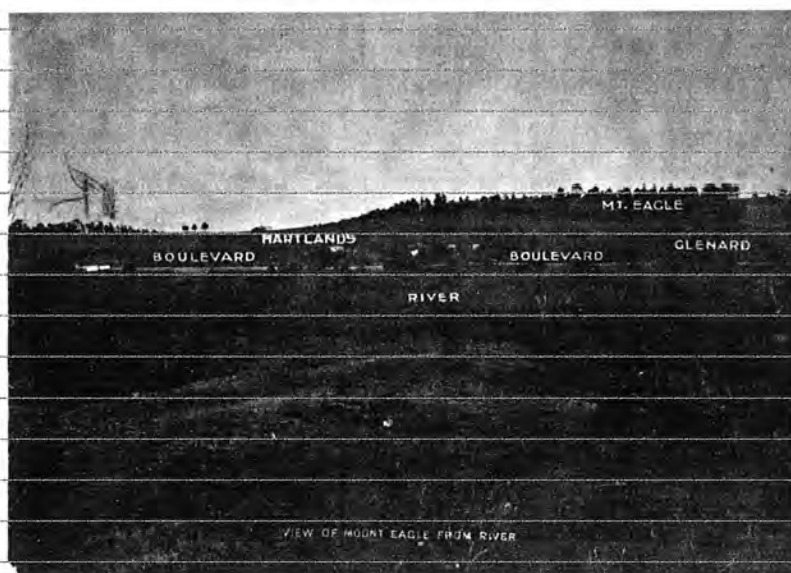
CONTINUITY AND RECURRENCE IN THE RIVERLANDS

Despite marked changes in them, the riverlands have had a certain continuity in some activities and elements, or have seen them recur. Post and rail fences, often three rail, for example, had a long period of use in Heidelberg, much longer than in many other districts. Even more distinctive was the hedge, especially the hedge of exotic plants. Heidelberg's historic landscapes also tend to be associated with certain plants: gorse, hawthorn, briar but also oaks and fruit trees and willows but they are also associated with some native plants especially river red gum, manna gum, the she-oak and the feathery wattle, *Acacia dealbata*. The native plants, long restricted to limited areas, are now recurring with extensive replantings in the parklands.

Looking at the history we can also see the recurrence - or continuity - of certain themes. The sense of the value of the streams themselves is naturally a continuing theme, although interpretations of what that value is may conflict. The sense of the value of the landscape, as landscape, shared by many, is an exceptional theme. Writing only of white perceptions here it can be said that few districts in Victoria have attracted such interest and enthusiasm over so long a period. The landscape valued by the whites changed very considerably over time but one thing remained true until very recently: the landscape so highly valued was not the primeval bush of the aborigines but a landscape in which original natural features were combined with the embellishments and "improvements" of the white settlers. (It is only in recent years that any considerable number of people have wanted to see a remaking of the riverlands into bushland.) The Heidelberg School and other artists did not paint bushland at Heidelberg but a landscape converted to the white man's ends, to a way of life essentially



c1855 FLOODED YARRA



c1920 VIEW OF MT. EAGLE



c.1950 VIEW FROM SOMERSET
DRIVE

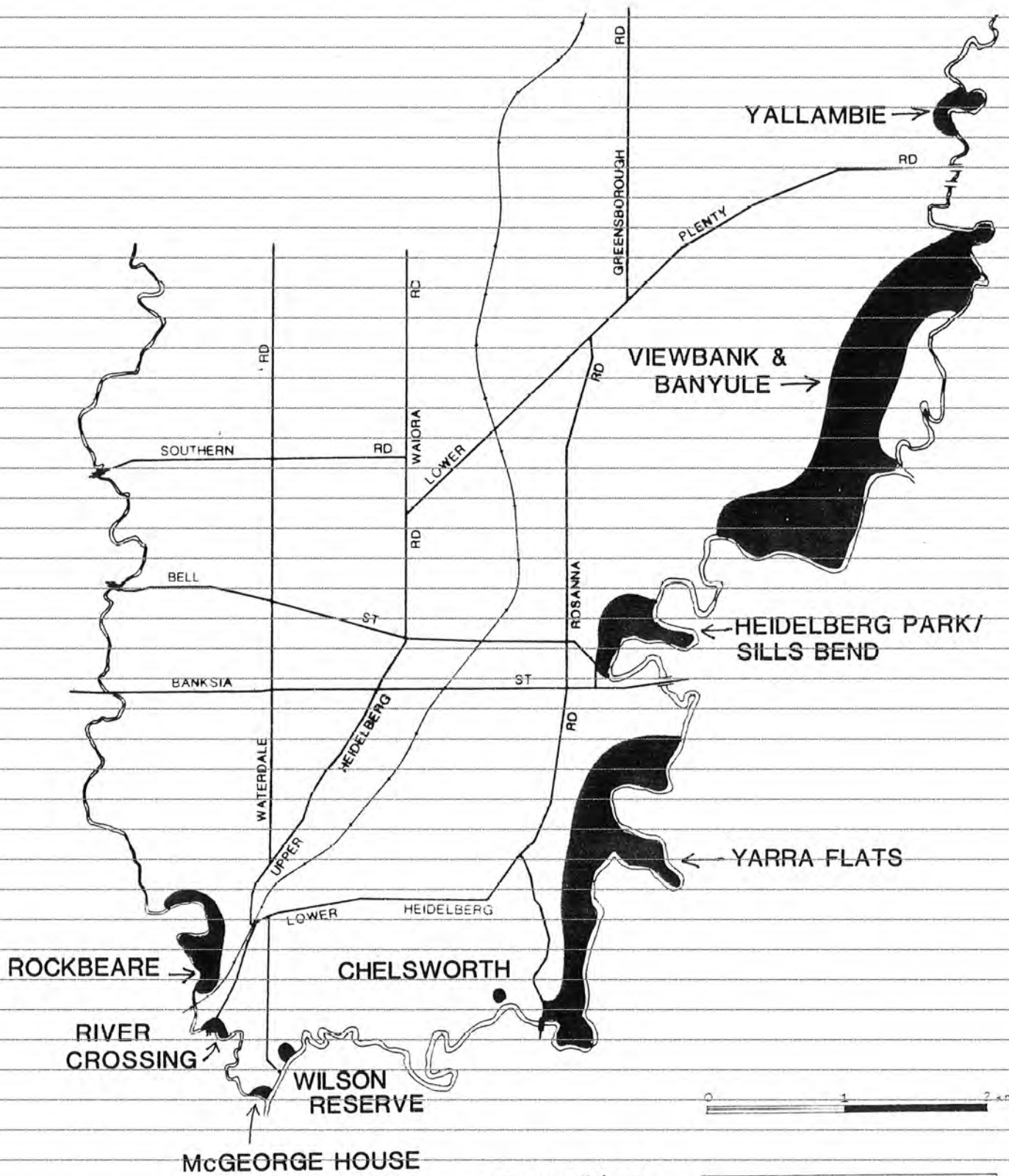
developed in Europe, however adapted to conditions here. Heidelberg became, in fact, a very much more anglicised landscape than most others in Victoria, rich in plants from Europe, and buildings transplanted from there, as it were, like St. John's and Banyule.

The degree of anglicisation of its landscape distinguished Heidelberg's from many others, although the spaces, the light, the sky, the colours - especially, of course, of summer - could suggest "typical" Australia. The blend of these Australian qualities with ones recreated from the European experience essentially give Heidelberg landscapes their "sense of place", and have long done so.

The early prestige estates quickly established the theme, and the prestige estate became itself a theme. Many of the estates remained intact for a remarkably long time and were renewed after decline. Viewbank and Banyule are notable examples. Heidelberg, which was exceptional for its fine gardens, fruit trees and animals (notably cattle and horses) in its early days saw a revival in this century of the breeding of fine animals.

THE COMPOSITE LANDSCAPE

Some of the riverland landscapes have had their past very largely obliterated. Others are still strongly stamped by it, for the most part the pastoral past. Most are composite landscapes, that is, landscapes with recognisable associations with more than one period. The area between Burke Road and Banksia Street bridges is a notable example. A remarkable stepped tree reminds us of the aborigines, and the regrowth along the river bank of the original bushland; there are reminders of the great estates - elms, hawthorns and a ditch marking an old boundary, for instance; and there is much still of the pastoral stage of the estates of the meadows and grazing cattle. All of these helped to make up the landscape painted by the Heidelberg School, together with elements now lost to us: the bare golden hills above and in the distance, the few houses and their gardens, the vineyard and orchard at Charterisville... To this already composite landscape may be added the signs of later activities: the presence and labors of the Chinese market gardeners, of later dairies and stock breeding. Another example is the S.E.C. power line, evidence of a battle lost by the conservationists in their struggle to preserve the riverlands from the depredations of those who valued them in literally utilitarian terms. Some of these later accretions are to be regretted, but not all: some add a welcome richness to the landscape for those who learn how to read it, letting them into some of the secrets of time in relation to a very special place.



Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

**LANDSCAPES OF
MAJOR CULTURAL
SIGNIFICANCE**



2.03 OUTLINE OF FINDINGS

This study as set out in detail in sections 3 and 4 of this report has explored the riverland areas of Heidelberg in a new way. The results present an opportunity to address land management decisions in a manner that will take cognisance of the events and times which formed the composite picture of today.

Our historical research has been thorough and meticulous but far from exhaustive. There are opportunities for considerable study in each of the key periods and places. In particular, while we have researched those artworks and photographs which we were reasonably able to access, a considerable wealth of material was too difficult and time consuming to pursue. Detailed archeological and meticulous site survey to uncover the hidden past was not undertaken and should be pursued in areas of special significance. Also our study concentrated upon Heidelberg and while our research and recommendations do take excursions across the river, equivalent studies to this should be undertaken in the neighbouring cities.

LANDSCAPES OF SIGNIFICANCE

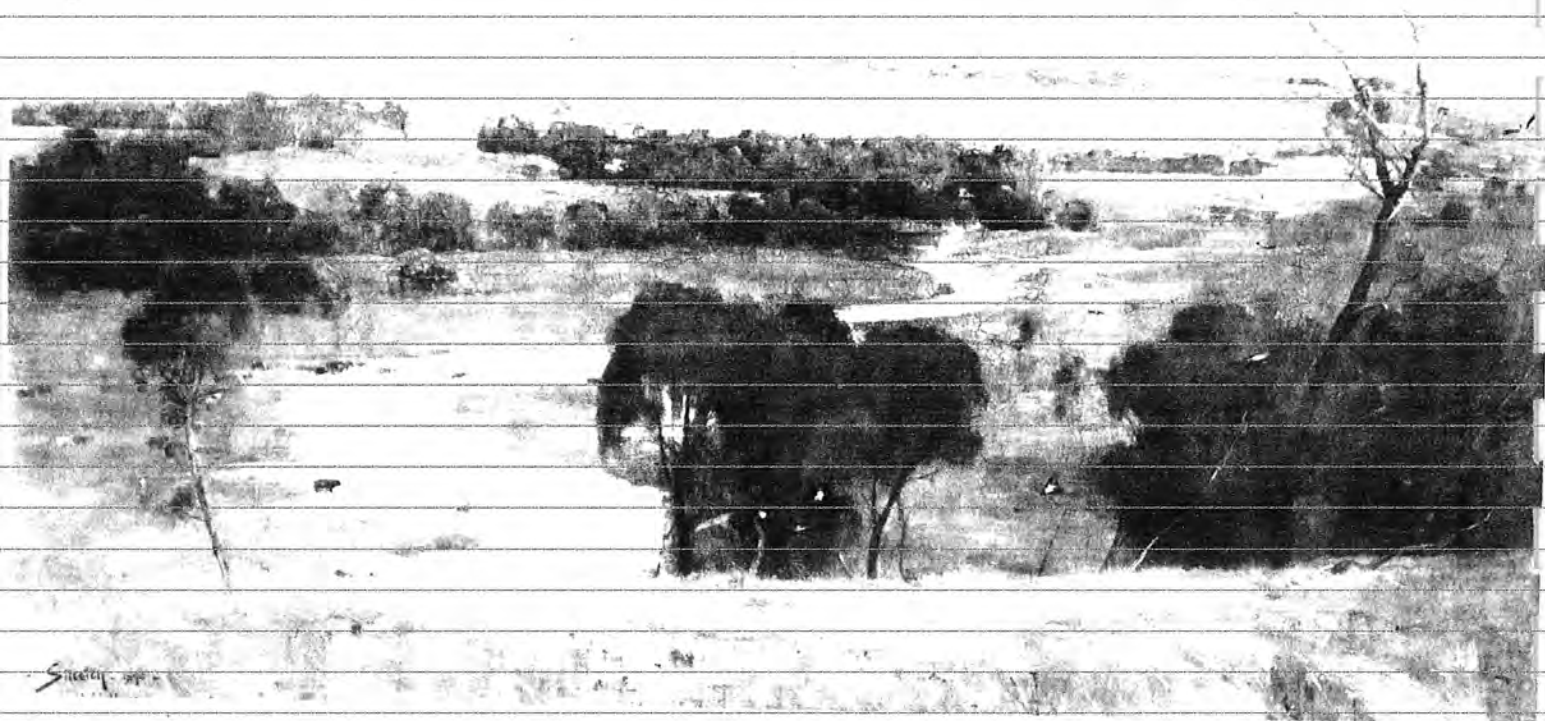
We have found that the major landscapes from Viewbank down stream to Burke Road Bridge are of definite State and could be argued to be of National significance. These areas are in particular referred to as precincts A1, A9, B1, B5, B6, B9 & 10. (Precincts A8, B2, B3, B4, B7, & B8 lie between and within the above area and should be addressed in a way that adds to the quality of the particular and special areas.)

These landscapes are of such significance because they remain sufficiently intact, of a scale and in the locale of major events in Australian history.

Firstly, it was in this area (not exclusively) that the prestige estates of Heidelberg were established by gentlemen or would-be gentlemen and became a special place for the social elite of the new Colony. Not long after their initial establishment, they became important in the development of Victorian agriculture.

Secondly, it was in this area that "Australian Art" evolved through the efforts of the so called Heidelberg School of Artists. It was this landscape which inspired Roberts, McCubbin, Streeton, Conder, Withers, Fox and others. The landscapes they painted remain sufficiently intact that we can not only feel and see the spirit that moved them but also virtually locate each major painting.

For this study, Streeton's "Still Glides the Stream" with the Yarra Valley in the foreground, the hills of Templestowe and the Dandenongs in the background, has become a symbol impressing on us the character of the underlying quality of the landscape which initially attracted the early gentlemen farmers and later protected the valley from a freeway.



ARTHUR STREETON (1867-1943)
 "STILL GLIDES THE STREAM AND
 FOREVER GLIDE" 1890
 Oil on Canvas 82 x 153 cm
 A.G.; N.S.W.

Other areas of high cultural and historic significance are:

- 1) The flats below Yallambie on the Plenty
 - Precinct A4.
- 2) Heidelberg Park and Sills Bend on the Yarra
 - Precinct B5 & B6.
- 3) Darebin Parklands on Darebin Creek
 - Precinct C4.

The following areas have historical or landscape importance above the average:

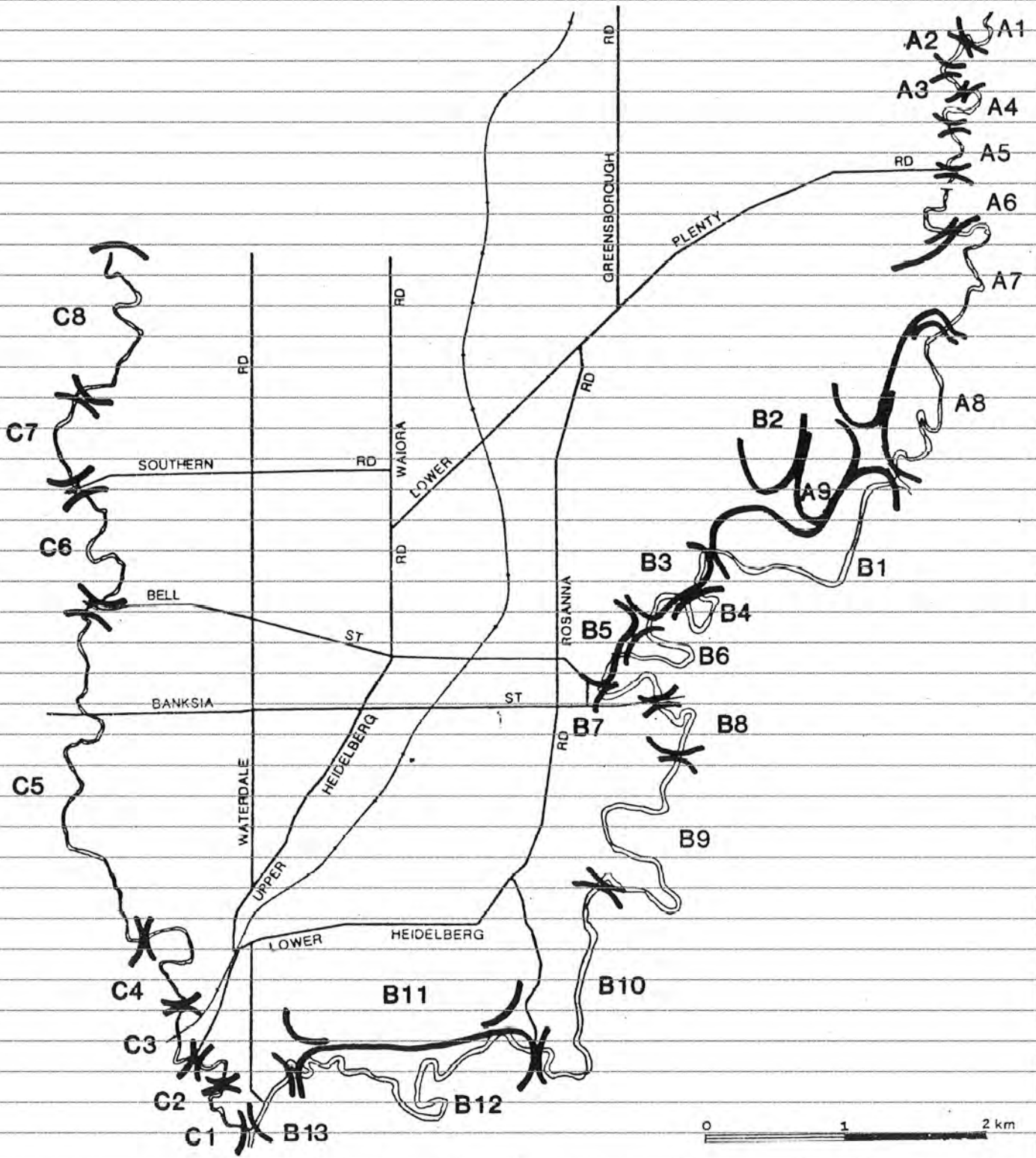
- 1) Chelsworth Park, Precinct B11.
- 2) Wilson Reserve Wetlands, Precinct B12.
- 3) Yarra/Darebin confluence especially McGeorge House, Precincts B13, and C1 .
- 4) Sparks Reserve area, Precinct C2.

Many other places are special and they are referred to in section 4.03. It is important to note that while we have picked out some selected places, each of the separate landscapes is important and has a contributing value. Some contain isolated remnants from a past time and others provide a link or buffer between the more special places. It is necessary that the whole of the studied landscapes be planned as an integrated package, with recognition, we would insist, of the things, character and qualities of heritage value.

We recognise that heritage issues are not the only contributors to land management decisions and that land use needs, natural systems and habitat values and economic resources all have claims.

It is to be noted that this study has been entirely focused upon an historical assessment. This does not negate its value, rather has enabled it to concentrate upon "what would be best from an historic bias". Various trade-offs may need to occur and should be subject to community debate and discussion.

The following tabular summary presents our findings. Such short paraphrasing is dangerous and the tables should be essentially used as a means of focusing particular perusal of this study, and lead into the study proper.



PLENTY RIVER PRECINCTS: A1-A8

YARRA RIVER PRECINCTS: B1-B13

DAREBIN CREEK PRECINCTS: C1-C8



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

**LANDSCAPE
PRECINCTS**



N 200 2000

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - SAMPLE

REF

PRECINCT CODE

PRECINCT LOCATION

**EXISTING LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER**Description of existing conditions,
physical and visual.

HISTORIC FEATURESOutline only of any historic elements
present today.

**PERIODS OF MAIN
INFLUENCE**Every period contributes but some are
noted as being of greater influence in
the development of each landscape.

**SIGNIFICANT
HISTORIC
ACTIVITY**Outline only of essential happenings.

**STATEMENT OF
SIGNIFICANCE**Indicates study findings as to the
particular specialness of each place.

RECOMMENDATIONSOutline only of our particular findings
and recommendations.

* Indicates periods of main influence

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE A1

PRECINCT LOCATION Plenty River, Allima Ave. North.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER Derelict landscape in a horseshoe bend
of the River with regenerating Manna
gums.

P145

HISTORIC FEATURES One old pear remains of earlier orchard.

P190

PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838 1838-1851*	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P *

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY Part of Woodside (Casa Maria) property.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of historical interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS Opportunity to develop as a "natural
woodland" with reminders of past land
use and history.

P251

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	A2		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Plenty River, Allima Ave.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Narrow valley with steep cliffs, weeds and Manna gums.		
			P145
HISTORIC FEATURES	Line of Cypress pines, possibly C19th.		
			P191
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Woodside & Yallambie properties.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Minor historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Opportunity to develop as a "natural woodland".		
			P253

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	A3		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Plenty River - Allima Ave. to Yallambie.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Incised stream in open setting dominated by backyards. Mixed vegetation.		
	P147		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Briars and Hawthorns, Pines probably C1870 (note more recent regeneration of pines.		
	P191		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Originally part of Greig's property and then Yallambie, (Plenty Station).		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Historically interesting and could be included in Yallambie area.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of historic features and developed as a transition from Yallambie (A4) into woodland areas.		
	P254		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	A4		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Plenty River. Yallambie Flat.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Large horseshoe open flat with good enclosure. Remnant historic plantings very dramatic.		
	P147		
HISTORIC FEATURES	C19th fruit trees, Cypress pines mid C19th, conifers and deciduous trees from C19th, garden and hedge escapes, remnants of C19th pump and windmill.		
	P191		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Plenty Station and Yallambie property used as orchard, vineyard, hopgrove, vegetable growing, crops and grazing. Planted as extended garden from the house.		
	P211		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	A very important landscape requiring considerable conservation and possible reconstruction. One of the key precincts of this study.		
	P257		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	A5		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yallambie Park - Plenty River.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Active sports area with pipe and wire mesh fencing.		
			P151
HISTORIC FEATURES	Remnants of earlier hedges. Hawthorns (garden and hedge escapes)		
			P193
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Yallambie (Plenty Station).		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Essential to undertake landscape improvements. Develop as sports fields in "natural woodland".		
			P259

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	A6		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Plenty River, Plenty to Bannockburn Rds.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Incised stream in undulating landscape with regenerating woodland and scrub.		
	P151		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Bridge of 1866, elms, Mollison's Lodge 1915		
	P193		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of J.M. Halls - Westbank estate. Possibly includes site of original Westbank cottage		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of old bridge and reconstruction as "natural woodland".		
	P260		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE A7

PRECINCT LOCATION Plenty River, Martins Lane to Viewbank.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER A large unit of undulating country of open grassland to open woodland, transversed by English style hedge and lane.

P153

HISTORIC FEATURES Old fence lines, foundations of structures remnant fruit trees and estate plantings, C19th hedges and patches of gorse.

P193

PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838*	1851-1863*	1901-1934*
	1838-1851*	1863-1901*	1934-P

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY Part of Westbank, Cleveland & Viewbank properties. Possibly includes part of the site of Dr. Martin's first cottage.

P216

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of cultural significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS Conservation of remnant historic features and reconstruction towards C1900's pastoral landscape typical of the period of the Heidelberg School.

P261

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	A8		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Plenty River - Rosanna Golf club.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Confused landscape with mixed plantings and defined fairways.		
	P157		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Old fence lines, weir on Plenty River and Cypress pines.		
	P193		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Cleveland estates.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Redesign golf course as a links style set in open woodland of indigenous trees.		
	P263		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE A9

PRECINCT LOCATION Viewbank Hill.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER Grassy high spaces with scattered old trees (exotic and indigenous) with excellent views.

P157

HISTORIC FEATURES Canoe tree, remnants of Martin house, C19th; remnants of garden plants, C19th; farm building (n.d.) and fencing (1920's), silo (1930's).

P193

PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838*	1851-1863*	1901-1934*
	1838-1851*	1863-1901*	1934-P

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY One of early estates, site of Dr. Martin's house and Bartrams farm.

P216

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of cultural significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS Conservation and minor reconstruction of C19th estate planting. Reconstruction towards C1900's period pastoral landscape as depicted by Heidelberg School.

P265

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B1		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Banyule & Viewbank flats.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	A broad undulating flood plain with billabongs, wetlands and remnant vegetation - pastoral.		
	P159		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Topography and landscape reflects 1850's-1900's. Remnants of old fences, hedges, plantings of C19th. Possibly important aboriginal site.		
	P197		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of C1840's estates of Banyule & Viewbank and possibly major aboriginal occupation area.		
	P222		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of historic remnants and reconstruction towards C1900's pastoral landscape. Some reconstruction of wetlands for habitat values.		
	P268		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B2		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Banyule Garden and Sports Field		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Open sports fields and 1970's native garden		
			P159
HISTORIC FEATURES	Native garden designed by Peter Glass of Eltham/Elis Stones 'school'.		
			P197
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Banyule estate. Plantings reflecting 1970's interest in native plants and conservation.		
			P222
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Continue native gardens theme as a backdrop to adjacent culturally significant landscape and to screen sports areas.		
			P272

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B3		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Plymouth Street to Warringal Park.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Mixed landscape with school, sportsfield, mixed plantings generally with grass understorey.		
	P155		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Warringal wetlands, old boundary fences and remnant fence plantings.		
	P197		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Banyule estate. Focus of activity for 1970's conservation groups.		
	P222		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest and some significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Opportunity to develop as quality functional parkland in a "natural open woodland" setting.		
	P273		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B4		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River, Fannings Bend.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Open meadow enclosed by river meander.		
			P163
HISTORIC FEATURES	1970's native plantings.		
			P197
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of Banyule estate. Plantings by 1970's conservation groups and 'Eltham/Ellis Stones school' designers.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Retain as discrete open meadow in contrast to B3 and reminiscent of past pastoral use.		
			P273

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B5		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Heidelberg Park/St. Johns.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Mature landscape dominated by conifers, escarpment, cricket ground of Church.		
	P163		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Garden of Victorian and Edwardian vintage. Part of original village plan. C19th cricket ground and Church.		
	P199		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of original Warringal Village Plan. Important cricket ground since 1850's. One of earliest public garden developments. Important early church.		
	P226		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of remnant historic features. Removal or down playing of intrusive elements and reconstruction to a mix of Victorian and Edwardian periods.		
	P275		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B6		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Warringal Park & Sills Bend.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Sportsfield with formal plantings and exotic woodland/meadow picnic area - all well contained.		
	P165		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Remnants of 1850's orchard and C19th plantings, popular swimming beach and mixed 1900's plantings.		
	P199		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC AGRICULT- ACTIVITY	Part of early Heidelberg Estates, Verners & Banyule and reflecting ural and pastoral use. More recent formal parkland development. River used extensively for swimming.		
	P234		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of historic features and replanting to reconstruct poplar glades. Rationalization of composite landscape to enable important periods to be recognised.		
	P279		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B7		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River, Banksia Street North.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Derelict landscape dominated by river edge vegetation and busy public roads.		
	P165		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Site of old cottages and early river crossing.		
	P199		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901	1901-1934 1934-P
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	River crossing.		
	P235		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historic interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Reconstruct as "natural woodland" with clearings and hints of past activity.		
	P282		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B8		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Banksia Street South.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Passive parkland in young eucalypt woodland.		
			P165

HISTORIC FEATURES -

PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838*	1851-1863	1901-1934*
	1838-1851	1863-1901	1934-P *

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Old river crossing. Soil extraction and land fill. Part of original Leighton Estate.		
			P237

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS	Continue development of dominant "natural woodland".		
			P283

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B9		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Yarra Flats south to McCubbin St.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Undulating flood plains fragmented by recent small paddock fencing and older fence line plantings.		
	P173		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Remnants of C19th agricultural activity. Billabongs and swamps.		
	P201		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of original Heidelberg estates Hartlands and Leighton. Adjacent to Mt. Eagle camp of 'Heidelberg School' artists. Adjacent to Burley Griffin estate. Adjacent to Springbank and Bulleen (major Aboriginal meeting place). Scene of anti-freeway-conservation battles.		
	P237		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Major works to reconstruct in flavour of C1900's pastoral as depicted by artists of the 'Heidelberg School'.		
	P284		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B10		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River, Yarra Flats south of McCubbin St.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Narrow pastoral river valley contained by edge of flood plain and river edge plantings - some open meadows.		
	P173		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Aboriginal stepped tree, Chinese market garden water wheel and terracing. Original boundary ditches C19th plantings. Swimming beach and boating area.		
	P201		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Evidence of aboriginal occupation. Part of earliest subdivision and estates, Charterisville & Hartlands. Site of many artists' camps. River recreation until excessive pollution in the 1950's. Conservation battles to save the river valleys.		
	P237		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of historic features and reconstruction towards C1900's pastoral landscape.		
	P284		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B11		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Chelsworth Park. Ivanhoe Golf Course.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Gentle sloping country with mixed plantings and sports/recreation development.		
	P173		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Parts of C1860's house and plantings. Escaped hedge plants.		
	P200		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Part of early Chelsworth estate and 'Heidelberg School of Artists'. Golf course and recreation area development.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Development of an open 'natural woodland' character as a foil to recreation/sports activities. Conservation of remnant historic features. Explore possibility of re-planning golf club to enable partial reconstruction of Chelsworth.		
	P289		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B12		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Burke Rd to Wilson Reserve		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Dense, regenerating riparian area with mixed species.		
	P175		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Bathing beaches, Ellis Stones playground, wetlands, 1920's Wilson memorial.		
	P202		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Originally part of Charterisville, Chelsworth and other smaller Estates. 1920's to present, focus for conservation of riverlands led by Wilson.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of special historical interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Management practices to enhance regeneration of wetlands and closed woodland. Retain exotics in picnic areas but slowly remove elsewhere.		
	P291		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	B13		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Yarra River - Wilson Reserve to Waterdale Road.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Narrow valley with gentle to steep slopes. Private gardens but predominance of red gums.		
			P175
HISTORIC FEATURES	Old red gums, private boat houses.		
			P202
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863 1863-1901	1901-1934* 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Prestige residential area 1920's.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of historic interest.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Zone to Proposed Public Open Space and initiate guidelines for use of the area by private owners. Retain mixed plantings but natural riparian vegetation to dominate.		
			P293

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	C1		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Darebin Creek. Yarra River to footbridge.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Narrow landscape with mixed plantings and private gardens.		
			P179
HISTORIC FEATURES	Adjacent to houses of early 1900's with some garden interest.		
			P202
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934* 1934-P
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Fairy Hills Estate c.1860. Prestige residential area. Residents include artists etc., 1920's including McGeorge House.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Zone to Proposed Public Open Space and initiate guidelines for use of the area by private owners. Retain mixed planting but natural riparian vegetation to dominate.		
			P293

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	C2		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Darebin Creek. Footbridge to Lower Heidelberg Road.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Narrow river valley with two meadowlike flats. Mixed planting. Willows dominate.		
	P181		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Prestige residential area of the 1920's. 1910's Parkland. Site of C1860's bridge crossing and old hotel.		
	P202		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-	-1838* 1838-1851*	1851-1863* 1863-1901* 1901-1934* 1934-P
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Creek crossing and road out to Heidelberg. Chinese market garden. 1920' subdivision.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Retain openness of the flats, predominantly deciduous vegetation, willows, and interpret early use e.g. Chinese market garden.		
	P293		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE C3

PRECINCT LOCATION Darebin Creek. Heidelberg Road to Darebin Park.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER Narrow landscape enclosed by escarpments, dominated by Railway viaduct and willows.

P181

HISTORIC FEATURES Railway bridge C1912.

P202

PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838*	1851-1863	1901-1934*
	1838-1851	1863-1901	1934-P

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY Road and rail links to Heidelberg.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of historic interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS Manage as closed woodland of mixed species.

P293

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	C4		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Darebin Creek. Rockbeare Park.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	River flats and gentle terraces with willow lined meandering stream between steep cliffs. Sense of history and romanticism.		
	P181		
HISTORIC FEATURES	Aboriginal middens, very old waggon track and other mid C19th elements. 1970's Conservation Movement elements e.g. Ellis Stone's plantings.		
	P203		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Waggon route from Melbourne. C19th farming, Rockbeare property. Bluestone quarries. 1970's Conservation Movement.		
	P242		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of cultural significance.		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Conservation of important historical features. Some reconstruction to aid interpretation. Emphasis on C19th pastoral on the flats including willow lined stream. Indigenous plantings on escarpments.		
	P295		

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

REF

PRECINCT CODE	C5 - C8		
PRECINCT LOCATION	Darebin Creek above Rockbeare.		
EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	Generally incised valley with steep cliffs. Some plateau and terraces in open space. Generally barren and degraded but older parts are reasonable.		
	P185		
HISTORIC FEATURES	C1915 bridge at Livingstone Street. Remnant indigenous vegetation. Olympic Park.		
	P205		
PERIODS OF MAIN INFLUENCE	-1838* 1838-1851	1851-1863* 1863-1901*	1901-1934 1934-P *
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ACTIVITY	Clearing for pastoral use. Development of 1956 Olympic Village and sports area.		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	-		
RECOMMENDATIONS	Reconstruction of "natural woodland" with screening of disturbing elements. Retain existing character to isolated recreation areas.		
	P298		

2.04

LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL SUMMARY

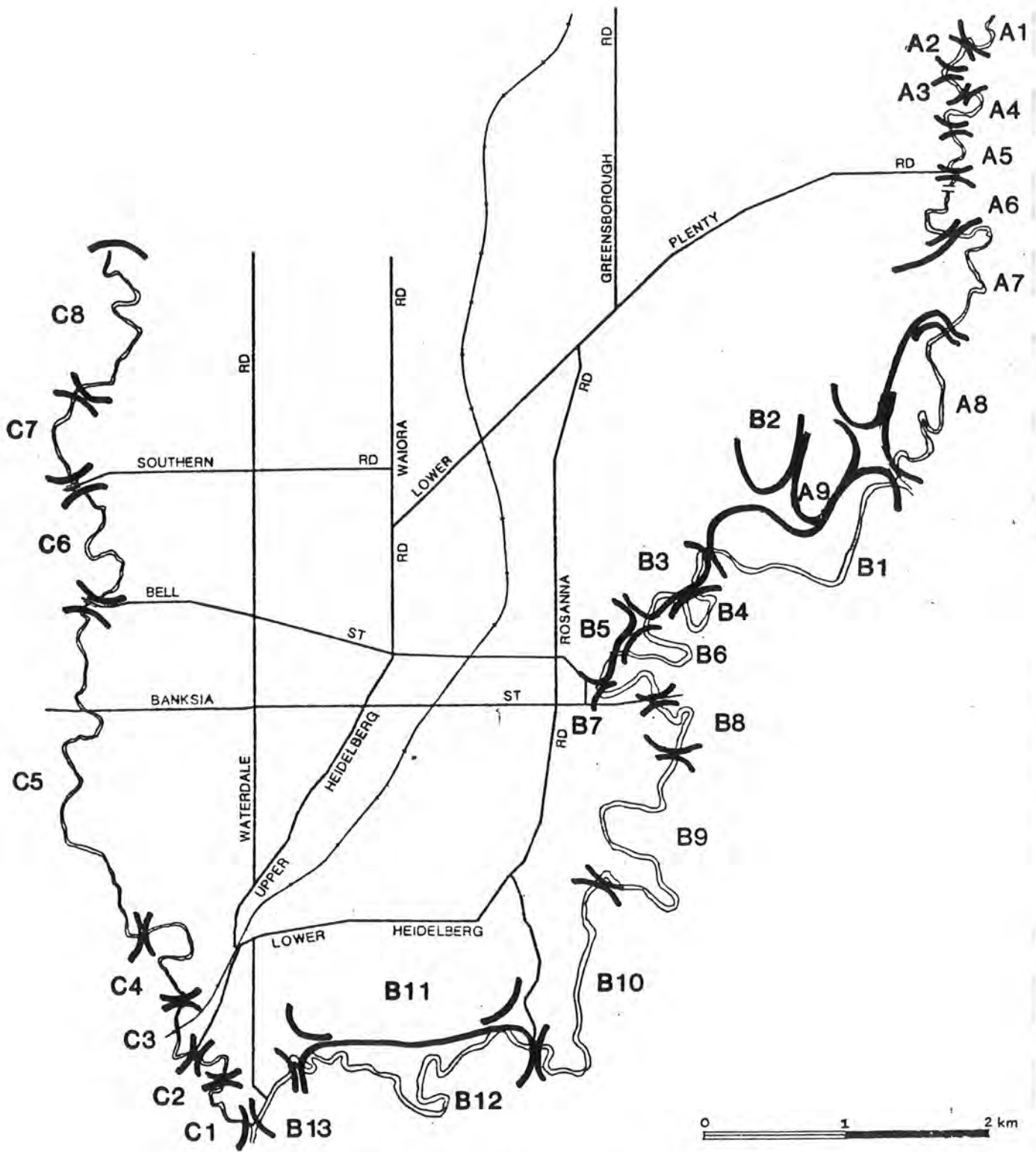
While concentrating upon historical research and our assessments of the importance of each area, we have been mindful to address ourselves to an overall, integrated landscape image. We believe it critical to demonstrate that with a historical bias it is possible to develop an integrated picture of the valley system.

A landscape plan for each of the valleys will need to accommodate a variety of special interests. We have not attempted to address these as they are beyond our brief but to concentrate upon the broad picture.

Our main historical recommendations as set out below relate to C1900 landscapes, mostly rural but some gardens. The critically important areas of the Boulevard and Banyule/Viewbank are all recommended as landscapes responding to the Heidelberg Impressionists, i.e. open rolling pasture, rough grass, distant views across dusky woodlands to the Dandenongs, derelict orchards, scattered huts and partially cleared wetlands. To provide a framework for these landscapes today, we believe they would be ideally set in "dusky woods". We have therefore recommended that virtually the whole valley system, edge planting and screening be developed to an indigenous woodland flavour to absorb all of today's intrusions. The areas of identified different character should then have the appearance of being carved out of or set against a background of landscape integrity.

Three distinctly different areas are listed as historic composite landscapes i.e. made up of elements from a number of contributing periods. These are Yallambie Flat, Heidelberg Park, Warringal Park and Rockebeare Park.

As a summary of the above each precinct is listed below with its overall recommended landscape character. Again for detail refer back to section 2.03 or forward to 4.03.



PLENTY RIVER PRECINCTS: A1-A8

YARRA RIVER PRECINCTS: B1-B13

DAREBIN CREEK PRECINCTS: C1-C8



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

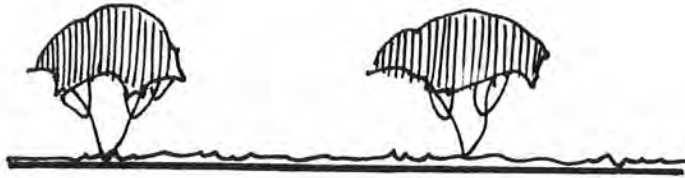
**LANDSCAPE
PRECINCTS**



1:5000
Landscape
and Planning



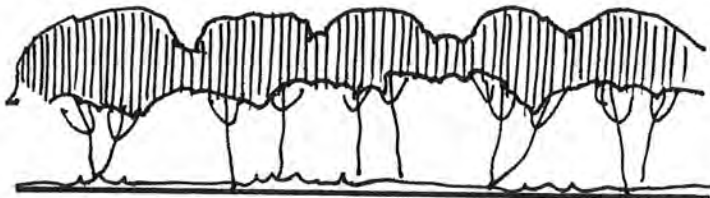
OPEN GRASSLAND
OR PASTURE



GRASSLAND WITH
SCATTERED TREES



OPEN WOODLAND



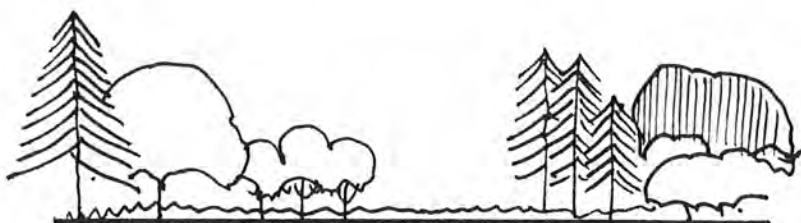
CLOSE WOODLAND



CLOSED WOODLAND



MEADOW OR
EDGE ENCLOSURE

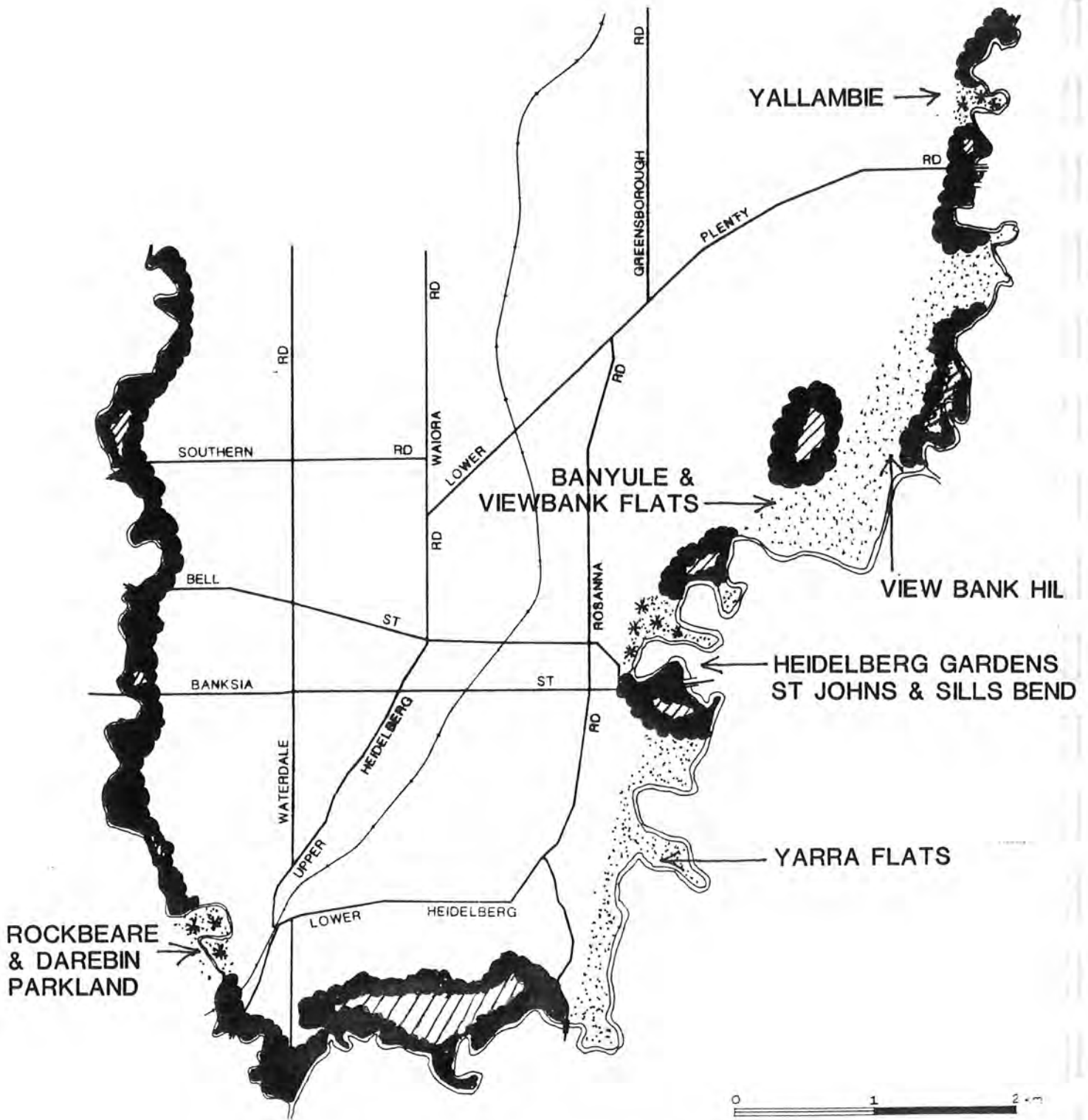






PARKLAND

OVERALL PRECINCT CHARACTER

- A1 Indigenous closed woodland with shrubby understory and enclosure.
- A2 Indigenous closed woodland with shrubby understory and enclosure
- A3 Open woodland with mixed species and isolated exotic shrubs. Indigenous screening and enclosure.
- A4 Derelict agricultural flats with remnants of historical plantings enclosed with conifers to the west and indigenous woodland to the east developed as a meadow character.
- A5 Close indigenous woodland enclosing sportsfields.
- A6 Indigenous closed woodland with shrubby understory - isolated clearings.
- A7 Grassland to scattered woodland to close woodland with grass understory. Large scale 1900's pastoral.
- A8 Open indigenous woodland with scattered shrubs.
- A9 Open pastoral woodland with derelict historic plantings. Exotic and indigenous shrubs on steep slopes. 1900's pastoral.
- B1 Open pastoral woodland scattered exotic and indigenous trees. Water bodies mixed, open and enclosed edge. 1900's pastoral.
- B2 Indigenous closed woodland enclosure to sportsfields.
- B3 Indigenous closed woodland enclosure to sportsfields. Hints of historic occupation.
- B4 Meadow enclosed by indigenous closed woodland.
- B5 1900's Victorian parkland dominated by Conifers with gardens and open space.
- B6 Mixed parkland semi-formal and deciduous with derelict orchard and recreation areas. Fully enclosed.
- B7 Open and closed indigenous woodland, some historic remnants.

- B8 Parkland with waterholes and wetlands in indigenous close woodland and closed woodland edges.
- B9 Open rural pasture with hint of dereliction. Partial enclosure along river and isolated deciduous trees. 1900's pastoral.
- B10 Meadow with remnant orchard, 1900's pastoral.
- B11 Open and close indigenous woodland absorbing recreation activities.
- B12 Closed indigenous woodland with dense shrubs.
- B13 Closed mixed woodland with dense shrubs.
- C1 Closed mixed woodland, with indigenous species dominant.
- C2 Meadows in mixed and enclosing closed woodland.
- C3 Closed mixed woodland with dense shrubs.
- C4 Pastoral meadows enclosed by indigenous closed woodland. Historic features - pine ridge and meandering willows to edge stream dominating.
- C5- Indigenous open and close woodland with shrubby enclosure.
- C8 Meadows with individual recreation character.



-  WOODLAND (usually natural)
-  WOODLAND WITH RECREATION AREAS
-  1900's PASTORAL
-  COMPOSITE HISTORICAL



LANDSCAPE RECOMMENDATIONS

L&B

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.00 RESEARCH AND SURVEY

3.01 Historic Periods.

As described in the Study Process, 1.02, a focus was required for historical research. We chose to identify periods of time within which identifiable and related activities took place. Our initial research identified six periods within which to concentrate.

- A Aboriginal dominance to time of major intrusion in the area C1838.
- B 1838-1851 - a period of European settlement and subdivision into prestige estates.
- C 1851 - mid 1860's - a period of intense cultivation and absentee land lords, flood and drought.
- D 1860's-1901 - a period of depression, suburbanisation, rail link and evolution of the Heidelberg School of Artists.
- E 1901 - 1934 - more intensive subdivision, depression and war, projects and riverland "improvements".
- F 1934 - present - Heidelberg becomes a suburb; the conservation movements.

Clearly greater subdivision could have been possible. However the six longer periods appeared to enable us to focus adequately upon the major landscape influences while remaining within the limits of the this study.

The histories presented in the pages following have been summarized to contain the essential events, influences and ethos for each period. Where we believe greater detail is required to flesh out those places or periods we have determined to be of major significance; we have undertaken additional research and prepared further notes which can be found in section 4.02.

A detailed fold-out map can be found at the rear of each section of the history. It is recommended the maps are read in conjunction with the text.

3.02 GENERAL HISTORY

THE HEIDELBERG RIVERLANDS: A LANDSCAPE HISTORY

PART I - MAP A pre-1840 p.

COUNTRY OF THE WAWORONG

1. THE PRIMEVAL LANDSCAPE

- The changing courses of the streams since the beginning of white settlement.
- Billabongs and swamps.
- Water quality.
- Floods and flow.
- The appearance of the landscape.

2. THE ABORIGINES

- The black population.
- Special gatherings and large numbers.
- The aboriginal impact on the riverlands.
- Myth and the landscape.
- Place names.

3. THE COMING OF THE WHITES

- The sawyers and splitters.
- The squatters.
- The aborigines and the first whites.

PART II - MAP B 1838-1851.

"THE DISTINCTLY ARISTOCRATIC LOCALITY".

- The sale and subdivision of Heidelberg and surrounding riverlands.
- The new landscape.
- "The distinctly aristocratic locality".
- The prestige estates.
- Farming on the prestige estates.
 - . Clearing
 - . Crops
 - . Animals
 - . Fencing
 - . Hedging
 - . Draining the flats
 - . raising the standard
- Amenities.
- Estate workers and small farmers.
- Exeunt Aborigines.

PART III - MAP C: 1851-1863.

"THE GARDEN OF THE COLONY"

- The effects of the gold rushes on Heidelberg's society.
- The character of the riverlands.
 - . Extent of cultivation
 - . The size of the farms
 - . Cereal crops
 - . Market gardens, orchards and vineyards
 - . Dairying
 - . Animals
 - . Fencing and hedging
 - . Buildings in the riverlands
- Services, utilities and amenities.
- The conditions and techniques of farming.
- Decline and disasters.

PART IV - MAP D: DECEMBER 1863-1901.

"SLEEPY HOLLOW" AND THE "SLEEPING BEAUTY"

1. THE GREAT REVERSAL

- Dairying.
- Other land uses.
- Fences and Hedges.
- Pollution.

2. SLEEPY HOLLOW"

- The Railway and the Land Boom.
- The depression of the 1890's.

3. THE "SLEEPING BEAUTY"

- The old and the new gentlemen.
- "A favourite place of resort for excursionists and picnic parties".
- Artists.

4. THE LANDSCAPE OF THE ARTISTS

- Where they lived.
- The landscape beyond.
- The poetry of the derelict.
- Streeton's "gold and blue".
- A changing scene.

PART V. MAP E: 1901-1934.

"A TIME OF PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS"

- The neatness of suburbia.
- the face of the rural riverlands.
- Rural activities on the riverlands.
 - The market gardens.
- The move away from rural uses.
- Improving the Yarra.
- "A Happy Hunting Ground of Artists".

PART VI - MAP F: 1934-

"UTILITARIANS AND CONSERVATIONISTS"

- Heidelberg becomes more suburban.
- Conservationists and "Utilitarians".
- The importance of the conservationist movement in Heidelberg.
- Art and the Yarra Valley.
- The Yarra.

PART I - MAP A. PRE 1840

COUNTRY OF THE WAWORONG*

1. THE PRIMEVAL LANDSCAPE

The City of Heidelberg is bounded on three sides by streams. The Yarra meanders through its spacious flood plain, once rich with billabongs and swamps. The Darebin and Plenty have their flats - notably at Rockbeare and Yallambie and up from the confluence of the Plenty and Yarra - but these tributaries are much smaller than the Yarra, and their valleys often narrow with, in places, steep banks and rockfaces at the water's edge.

The geology of the riverlands cannot be entered into here, more than to mention the great change that took place in the Late Pliocene when lava flowed down the Darebin and Merri and so into the Yarra valley below Fairfield, damming the river back. This resulted in the deposition of a wide plain of sediment as far up as Templestowe; a mile above the junction of the Yarra and Plenty that alluvium is thirty feet deep.¹ J. T. Jutson believes that the original Plenty flowed down the lower section of the old valley of the present Darebin Creek and that a new basalt flow diverted it to its present situation. The new Plenty, the Yarra and the Koonung Creek developed their meandering courses across the alluvium with the Yarra becoming the dominant river.²

The changing courses of the streams since the beginning of white settlement.

Streams may forever glide but not necessarily in the same place. Meanders, for instance, migrate downstream under natural conditions.

Map A points to some changes and possible changes that have taken place in Heidelberg's streams since the first surveys were made. But the early surveys may not always have been accurate. Hoddle's and Darke's do not always agree, for example, and some changes do not seem very likely. Hoddle and Darke both agreed however, on their definition of the Yarra's course at Wilson Reserve (and other maps confirm their findings): the river then lacked the small, tight meanders that are there now. The author of a study of this area found it impossible to explain this change, but dated it as probably occurring before 1924.³

Other changes followed on man's tinkering, as has been shown to have happened between the Darebin's junction with the Yarra and Burke Road bridge,⁴ but others

seem to have had natural causes,⁵ like the comparatively recent cutting off of the meander just south of Banksia Street bridge, during occurred after a flood.⁶

Billabongs and swamps.

The word "billabong" was said to have meant "dead river" to the aborigines, a sound equation, since the billabong is an abandoned stream channel.⁷ Many existing billabongs appear on the old maps, but the first surveyors were not concerned with charting the topography of the riverlands in any detail. The very much later MMBW maps and the earliest aerial photographs may indicate approximately what existed at the time of white settlement, since these were made, or taken, before large scale filling and draining had begun, although we cannot be quite sure just how much was done to smooth out the configurations of the land and to reclaim swamp or billabong earlier. But it is clear how richly varied the topography and water bodies once were - and how numerous the latter must have been (See especially Map E). In 1977 Christopher Bailey recollected that sixty years earlier there had been more than fifty billabongs in the area between the Darebin and Burke Road bridge.⁸

Water quality.

Another great change in the streams has been that in water quality. It is hard to imagine the turbid yellow Yarra of the present as the pellucid river it was when the whites came - and as it remained (except occasionally) for a long time after. The Darebin and the Plenty were also, no doubt, beautifully clear and unpolluted.⁹

Floods and flow.

Pollution and turbidity were eventually to come as the products of white settlement, but floods were natural to the riverlands. Visitors from the expedition of the Cumberland of 1803 saw that the Yarra could rise high from "the wreck on the trees",¹⁰ and rapid flooding happened in the early years of settlement, before the river had been much affected by the Europeans' activities.

There were to be changes in the rate of flow. The Plenty's was said to have been changed with the building of Yan Yean. The drainage of marshes to feed the reservoir meant that more water came down during the rainy season but less in the dry, for the swamps had formerly stored the water, emitting it gradually over the summer months.¹¹

The appearance of the landscape.

The first known glimpse by a white man of Heidelberg and its district was in February, 1803 when at Dight's Fall Mr. Robbins of the Cumberland "got up a tree", and saw the country "to be gently rising hills, clothed with trees, for ten or fifteen miles".¹² The high land away from the stream banks proved to be generally open forest, the trees straggling away from each other, and rarely standing "so close as to prevent a free passage between their trunks".¹³ With grass and few shrubs beneath the trees, the hills of Heidelberg were to appear like an English park to some English eyes.¹⁴ A survey plan of 1858 marked the vegetation around Heidelberg village as consisting of "Gum, Wattle, Bastard Box, Lightwood and Honeysuckle"¹⁵ (*Eucalyptus camalculensis* and *E. viminalis*?, *Acacia mearnsii*?, *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*?, *Acacia implexa*?, and *Banksia spinulosa*?). The casuarinas beloved by Arthur Streeton are not mentioned, but they too grew on Heidelberg's hills, both *C. stricta* and *C. littoralis*.¹⁶

A thickening of vegetation marked stream courses and eucalypts grew to a much greater size there and on the alluvial river flats. The fertile flats of the Yarra bore "trees of unusual size and straightness",¹⁷ contrasting with the shorter, slighter and more straggly ones of the uplands. (Buvelot's "Winter Morning, Heidelberg" suggests something of what it was like, although his trees of 1866 are not the giants of the primeval forest, with boles six to eight yards in circumference.)

Governor Bourke noticed little scrub as he rode up river on the Heidelberg side in 1837,¹⁸ but the body of evidence suggests that there was probably a good deal of "underwood"¹⁹— both *Melaleuca ericifolia* and *Leptospermum lanigerum* ("tea tree") were to be found on the flats. We know that Richard Howitt's river flat at Alphington, with its billabong and swamps, was covered with "tea-tree scrub" beneath its great red gums²⁰ and Daniel Bunce wrote of the "scrubby ground... about Heidelberg".²¹ He might, however, have been referring to Bulleen, which, Rolf Boldrewood tells us, had many dense thickets²² (some idea of them may be had at Bulleen Park, where the remnant of the old billabong still has something of its old, dark mystery). It seems likely that such thickets occurred frequently on the swampy parts of the flats and parts of Bulleen seem to have been rather swamplier than the land on the Heidelberg side of the river. The old maps sometimes indicate places where there was "scrubby" vegetation. Certain wattles were found where there was moisture but better drainage: the 'silvery tinged acacia"²³ (*A. dealbata*) are still spectacular in

bloom along the Yarra's banks. Other plants of the alluvial areas included the cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) and *Acacia melanoxylon*, "the luxuriant growth of the latter being an almost invariable accompaniment of a rich soil".²⁴ But by no means all of the area was shrubby or scrubby: much would have been open and well grassed with groups of towering, handsome trees here and there.

The flora changed further north on the Plenty. Richard Howitt noted that "the vast and sterile stringy bark forests" began at about Yallambie's southern boundary.²⁵ Some of the plants found further south also grew in these stringy bark forests - banksia and casuarina are mentioned - but the "stunted" peppermint and messmate created a marked change in character. The timber was light, and there was "an undergrowth of coarse grass, fern, heath, grass tree, and varieties of prickly scrub, on a poor, loose, sandy or clay soil".²⁶ The river banks and flats supported vegetation already described for the alluvial areas down river but with manna gum (*E. viminalis*) rather than river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*).²⁷ In one of Edward Bateman's meticulous drawings of the Plenty Station (Yallambie) one untouched river bank shows ferns, native herbs and grasses; the other, cleared and grazed, shows the new poverty of flora caused by European occupation.²⁸

This destruction of small species was characteristic of all grazed areas. Where the Darebin had a basalt-based soil - "a rich black mould"²⁹ - the herbs would have formed an exceptionally important part of the plant life. Kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*), which would have flourished widely in the district, was surely prominent among the grasses, which grew with what seemed extraordinary luxuriance to early white visitors. Except along the margins of the Darebin, shrubs were probably rare. The trees would have included the red gum of the alluvial soils along the Yarra, she-oaks and wattles.³⁰

The basalt country was strewn with the honeycombed rust-coloured boulders of its volcanic past.³¹ The whole of the Heidelberg district, like other Australian woodlands, was littered with fallen trees, and the Yarra and its tributaries too were greatly encumbered with them,³² so slow was the decay of the red gum.

Animals and birds.

Heidelberg still amazes with the variety of its bird life, so close to the centre of a major city. Some, at any rate, of the early settlers enjoyed the birds - their song, their appearance and, of course, the hunting of them.³³

It is easy enough today to imagine the myriad birds of Heidelberg's riverlands in those times, but much harder to imagine the animals that inhabited them. In the 1850's Horatio Wheelwright hunted game - including birds - within forty miles of Melbourne and found these districts teeming with suitable targets.³⁴ One imagines that the riverlands must always have been well-stocked, but it is impossible to know how well. Winty Calder has pointed out that observers in the 1840's saw that, in some places, animals were increasing at a great rate, as a result of the departure of the aborigines and their dingoes.³⁵ But at Heidelberg early settlement, its comparatively high density, rapid change in habitats and closeness to Melbourne may have acted against such an increase: white slaughtering might indeed have outdone the aboriginal, at least for some species. If, however, the aboriginal population had decreased greatly before the coming of the whites (this is discussed later), that declining black population may have enabled the fauna to increase considerably by the time of white settlement.

2. THE ABORIGINES

The aborigines were living in Victoria at least forty thousand years ago,³⁶ but their long habitation of this country before the coming of the white man remains shadowy.

An archaeological survey of the Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park, necessarily limited in extent, led to the discovery of some interesting artefacts³⁷ (and there have been others), and it was observed that the Pleistocene river terraces of the Yarra may still hold evidence of "relatively early aboriginal occupation".³⁸ Much archaeological research, then, remains to be done.

The black population.

How many aborigines lived in the Heidelberg district before the whites came? It is impossible to say. Witter and Upcher (authors of the archaeological survey) thought on the basis of the limited evidence available to them, that aboriginal occupation would have been temporary and that the groups would have been small, only a few families being involved.³⁹ But recently it has been argued by Noel Butlin that the aboriginal population of Australia might be as much as five times higher than previously thought⁴⁰ (100,000 rather than 15,000 or 20,000 in Victoria)⁴¹ and this, if true, would necessarily change our view of the Heidelberg area: it may not have been as sparsely populated as Witter and Upcher suggested. William Thomas, Assistant Protector of the local aborigines,

estimated that the entire population of the Yarra and Westernport tribes had been 500 not long before settlement,⁴² which may be right but which does not mean that the 500 may not have been the remnant of a very much larger population, which (in Butlin's view) had been catastrophically cut back by disease, especially the small-pox epidemics of 1789 and 1831-2. The increase in venereal disease was to affect the recovery of the aboriginal population after these epidemics.

The question of population is important, for, if it was much larger than usually thought, the use of resources would have been much more intensive. Butlin argues that the aborigines, when their population was larger, had lived more settled lives than previously imagined. Recent research, it is said, supports these conclusions. The decline, then, had radically disturbed aboriginal society so that by the time the white man came he was observing much that was far from traditional.⁴³ It has also been argued elsewhere that European influences had so affected the aboriginal culture before direct contact was made that little can be known of that culture as it existed before that contact⁴⁴ - and it is hard enough to describe the culture as it existed when the whites had arrived, owing to the nature of the evidence we have.

Special gatherings and large numbers.

As far as population is concerned, however, it is clear that parts of the Heidelberg area did attract more than a few families from time to time, whatever the normal population was. It is true that only one band of the Woiworung seems to have had Heidelberg as part of its territory,⁴⁵ but periodically the whole tribe met on the Yarra flats at "Bolin" - an undefined area centred around the former "Bolin Lagoon" presumably. It is clear from the testimony of William Thomas that Bolin was a favourite place of the Woiworung. When the land was sold the already tragic life of the tribe was greatly worsened. But not only they were affected, for Bolin was the site for great inter-tribal gatherings of the Kulin - a grouping of the Bunarong (Westernport), Barabool, Goulburn and Devil's River tribes, as well as the Woiworung - whose combined lands covered central Victoria. Bolin made such gatherings possible because of its summer supply of eels. The gatherings were not used merely for feasting and other social pleasures but to resolve conflicts and strengthen bonds⁴⁶ - and quite probably for other purposes, trading, for example. That such meetings were traditional seems virtually certain, since the rituals and the place itself were connected with a mythology⁴⁷ which was hardly likely to have been recently invented.

Other areas in or near Heidelberg may also have seen large gatherings, regular or not. Thomas witnessed one at the Merri Creek near its junction with the Yarra, which was addressed by an aged and greatly respected visitor from the north, who was accompanied by 150 blacks from his own country.⁴⁸ The aborigines seem to have liked the junctions of watercourses: those of the Darebin and Plenty with the Yarra and Donaldson's Creek with the Darebin were sites used by them. The wealth of game and other foods and the presence of never-failing water would certainly have allowed special meetings of large numbers as well perhaps as supporting a greater number of people on a more permanent basis than Thomas' figure of 500.

The aboriginal impact on the riverlands.

How did the people live in pre-historic times? What mark did they make upon their landscape?

To my knowledge no mention has ever been made for this area of permanent dwellings such as were found in other parts of Victoria, nor of major works associated with eeling or fishing. (Suitable loose stones for the making of walls and so on probably existed only over on the basalt country, and perhaps there was no need of major traps for fish or eels in the area.) But there were, Brough Smyth wrote, "numerous old Mirrn-yong heaps on the banks of the River Plenty, on the Darebin Creek, and the Merri Creek." They were named after the staple yam that was cooked in them. Brough Smyth considered that, despite their size, the layering of the heaps showed that they had been built up by small amounts of material from time to time, thus showing that there had been no great concentrations of people at them.⁴⁹ (Heaps along the Yarra would have been more prone to be swept away by floods.)

Several red gums, scarred from the removal of bark, still survive, and so does one "stepped" tree, on the Yarra bank near Linn Street, with notches showing where the aborigines climbed - possibly to get honey, for there appears still to be a hive at the top of the tree.⁵⁰ There would probably have been aboriginal tracks through the district and possibly some of these may have been used - or parts used - by the first whites, as elsewhere in Australia.

Such marks on the landscape, although visible enough where they occurred, seem as nothing compared with the wholesale cutting of forests, the ploughing and the pasturing that was to take place. It is, indeed, a common place to see the aborigine as protecting and husbanding his resources (but his companion the dingo had no such qualms and its competing predator, the Thylacine tiger was wiped out except in Tasmania, which the dingo did not reach).⁵¹ Whether the aborigines

brought with them the ability to husband resources, or whether they learned how to do so over time, is not known. They did learn how to use a very wide range of the species available to them in their new environment, often with great ingenuity, as the techniques and handicrafts of the Woiworung showed.⁵²

The very coming of the aborigines must have had an impact on their new country, however concerned they were to adapt to it, but as well as unintended effects, there were intended ones. It is probably not possible to draw the line always between intended and unintended. It is thought, for example, that firestick farming had some massive effects. Fire was used to encourage new growth for animals hunted by the aborigines. This burning off, it is said, changed close forests to open ones over great areas: it has even been suggested that the replacement of casuarinas and conifers as the dominant trees by eucalypts was also caused by this large scale and repeated firing of the land.⁵³ Dr. Beth Gott has also shown how practices involved in the search for vegetable foods could alter the landscape. Burning not only attracted game but created more favourable conditions for many edible plants. Modes of gathering and digging also helped to encourage plants useful to the blacks. Dr. Gott sees these practices as amounting to a form of "natural cultivation", a kind of gardening which had important implications for the abundance and distribution of food plants as well as for the general ecology. Murnong (mirrn-yong), for instance, was favoured by burning.⁵⁴

Was the open parklike country of so much of Heidelberg due to the deliberate use of fire by the aborigines - or by accidental use of it? Had they moulded the landscape we tend to think of as "natural" - made by "nature" alone? Unfortunately, we do not know whether fire was used in this way in this area.⁵⁵ The digging stick certainly was used. It is said that the aboriginal name of the Koonung Koonung Creek was Kunnung Konong, Konnung being a woman's digging stick and Kunong meaning, simply, creek.⁵⁶ (The spellings are as given!) The alluvial flats of the Koonung and of the other streams must have been well dug over in pre-historic times.

At the time of white settlement it looks as if the aborigines use of the riverlands was seasonal, and this may have always been so. It is thought that the Woiworung went up to the sources of the Yarra and its tributaries in the summer months (the watershed being tribal territory),⁵⁷ but a stay at Bolin must have been fitted in, if only for its eels. In the winter, it is said, they camped on the drier uplands rather than on the riverlands, prone to flood.⁵⁸ This seasonal pattern would certainly have rested the land, its plants and its game.

When they camped, the aborigines showed care in their choice of site, looking for protection from the weather, liking a position where their mia-mias faced east into the morning sun,⁵⁹ and choosing what white people would consider aesthetically pleasing places, according to Horatio Wheelwright.⁶⁰ There was nothing random in the layout of the camps. Where different tribes gathered a careful set of relationships was observed,⁶¹ and even with a small family group a definite pattern of mia-mia to mia-mia existed. We know in what orderly fashion Berak (last of the pure bloods of the Woiworung and a notable leader of the remnant of his people) set up camp with his family at Heidelberg.

What seemed to most whites a free and randomly wandering life was, in fact, a patterned one, although one in which the disciplines of the patterns seemed easily borne. Whatever the extent to which these patterns involved deliberate intervention by the Woiworung to change the riverlands and other parts of their territory, their entry into it, together with the great natural changes that took place over the long period of their occupation, must have altered it greatly.

Myth and the landscape.

It is well known that the aborigines infused their tribal lands with spiritual meaning, in such a way that the spiritual and material aspects of life were inextricably intertwined, leading to a complex set of relationships between human beings and the land, with all its elements, down to the most humble.

Very many places, plants and creatures must have been saturated with meaning for the tribe and for individuals, but most of this meaning is lost to us. Some has survived, although whites will have a distorted view of it. We know that the Yarra was of great importance, not just to the Woiworung but to the other Kulin peoples. It is said that there was a dream-time pathway along it, associated with the ancestral migration along the Goulburn, across the Black Spur and down the Yarra.⁶³ Very special events seem to have taken place on the river flats (Heidelberg - Templestowe). The mythical hero or divinity, Bunjil, was said to have lived there with the tribe. (Bunjil had created the aborigines, according to legend.) The Karatgurk, five young women, who also dwelt on the Yarra flats during the Dreamtime, had the secret of fire: the outcome of the struggle of the Kulin to obtain it was a great blaze, in which the Karatgurk were swept up into the sky, where they became the Pleiades.⁶⁴

Even the shaping of the Yarra itself was the subject of myth. In one version, attributed to Billi-billeri, one of the Woiworung leaders at the time of white occupation, was that the flats became a Great Water while the legendary makers of the river rested from their work. Thus the action of the lava, which had dammed back the Yarra, and the river's later freeing, were explained.⁶⁵

Place names. (This is by no means an exhaustive discussion.)

Place names would seem likely to be a useful source for the significance of various places. But consider the word "Yarra". The words Yarra Yarra are said to mean flowing flowing, i.e. ever-flowing;⁶⁶ it was the white man's mistake to believe them to be the name of the river. Yarra has also been said to have meant waterfall, red gum trees, hair, and spirit-woman or running water, swift motion or at hiding place!⁶⁸ What then was the aboriginal name for the Yarra? John Green, who was close to survivors of the Wwoworung, believed it to be Bur-erring,⁶⁹ while another name given is Birr-arrung.⁷⁰ The unnamed authority for the latter pointed out that the word for mist was Boorr-arrang,⁷¹ but Thomas says that the word for fog was Ng-orr, while that for dew was Boo-re-arn.⁷² (Both mist and dew are features of the Yarra Valley). It might also be worth noting that Green gives the word for river in general to be Brrering,⁷³ and it may have been that the Yarra was the river to its tribe. However, Aldo Massola believes that the aborigines never named the whole of a stream, but only specific parts of it. Thus the Yarra was Ngin-da-bil (thunder) in its upper reaches, Warringal (dingo-jump-up) along the Heidelberg-Templestowe flats - and this name was also given to the flats-while at Bulleen the river was named buln buln (lyrebird). At Prahran it was called Boo-re-arn (mist).⁷⁴

Lyrebirds at Bulleen? Bullen bullen is said to mean place of loneliness⁷⁵, a little odd considering the large groups of people who met there. Another compiler agrees with lonely place but suggests big fight as an alternative. Warringal is said to have meant eagle's nest,⁷⁷ rather different from dingo-jump-up. According to Massola, Nillumbik - red earth - was the aboriginal name for Heidelberg, while a brackish round swamp at Heidelberg was known as Keelbundoora.⁷⁸ On the other hand, Robert Hoddle defined Nillum Bik as meaning "where the ground is bad or unfit for Agricultural or Grazing Purposes".⁷⁹ (It may have meant red earth as well as that.)

On the Waworong names for the Darebin and Plenty we have little information. The Plenty, near its junction with the Yarra, was known as Yan-Yan, the child, Massola tells us.⁸⁰ He gives no entry for Darebin, but Blake suggests that it derives from the aboriginal word for swallows - darabin.⁸¹ Whether the creek itself was known as darabin to the aborigines is not discussed. Hoddle liked to choose aboriginal words as names, but they may not have had any real relationship to place. The Koonung Koonung (woman's digging stick creek) sounds like a genuine name but Black believes it was a term for muddy water.⁸²

Little else survives of aboriginal words for places in the district apart from Banyule, which apparently derives from the local word Banool, or hill, or Ban-null, a high hill or mountain.⁸³ Banool is appropriate, but may not have been the specific aboriginal name (if there was one) for the site of the grand house called Banyule.

3. THE COMING OF THE WHITES

In 1803 Charles Grimes, N.S.W. Surveyor General, explored the Yarra to a little beyond its junction with the Merri Creek and then turned back. More than 30 years later, in 1835, John Batman may have passed to the north of Heidelberg to sign his notorious treaty with the blacks near the Plenty River. If so, the generous tract of land he "bought" for the Port Phillip Association so cheaply from the trusting aborigines he had met with would have included some part of Western Heidelberg, but that was not an area he had seen. John Helder Wedge followed on Batman to survey the Association's lands, and in 1836 Joseph Tice Gellibrand may have crossed the Darebin near South Preston,⁸⁴ and he went on across country to name the Plenty.⁸⁵ But the claims of the P.P.A. were disallowed and it was left to others to discover the greater part of Heidelberg.

By the time the official surveys of the Yarra and its tributaries were being made two classes of white men had arrived in the area: the sawyers and the squatters. Neither group had ownership in the land: licenses permitted them to exploit it.

The sawyers and splitters.

Not a great deal is known about the sawyers and splitters. Early maps show their huts set out sparsely along the watercourses, interspersed with those of the squatters: lonely little dots in the primeval forest.

They were mobile: as soon as they had felled the good timber they moved on. They could do well. William Thomas, encountering a family when lost on his way to Dandenong, found that the man earned 5 pounds a week and expected soon to get bullocks of his own.⁸⁶

There were sawyers in Bulleen not far from the squatter J.H. Kerr. One passage from Kerr's reminiscences describing them is well known. He pictured them as a "lawless set", ex-convicts (Thomas' family, in contrast, had only recently emigrated from England). Most of those Kerr knew were "sly grog vendors", and quite disposed to committing "outrages". One man put his wife up to auction: "the lady was in no wise disconcerted, and walked away very contentedly with her new lord." Kerr and his partner were careful to avoid all argument with these neighbours.⁸⁷ On the other hand, Rolf Boldrewood got some of his sawyer friends (very likely of the same set) to build him a "light dug-out canoe".⁸⁸ Elsewhere Kerr points to the dangers these people faced, along with other pioneers - the risk of sudden flood and of death by accident far from medical help.⁸⁹

The sawyers' lot represents both the hardness and the opportunities of pioneer life, and they began the massive work of clearing the Yarra valley of its magnificent timber.

The squatters.

The squatters' tenure, like that of the sawyers, was to be very brief close to Melbourne. We do not know the exact boundaries of their runs for, Heidelberg being in what was defined as the Settled District, squatters did not have to provide the administration with the details that those elsewhere had to do. Land was sold early in Heidelberg, but squatting lasted a little longer south and east of the Yarra.

Map A shows the approximate sites of squatters' huts. Governor Bourke, visiting the infant settlement in 1837, rode up by the Yarra through Heidelberg and beyond the Plenty, passing through Mollison's (Owen McWilliam points out that Robson's station marked on a map of 1837 may be Mollison's. She suggests that "Robson" could be a draftsman's error or Mollison but has also discovered that a Captain Robson of Van Dieman's land had a David Mollison as agent in mid 1837; she hopes, however, that there were other Mollisons in Port Phillip at the time. See Map for location.) and Wood's stations. His enthusiastic remarks summed up some of the advantages of the area. The Yarra was, he wrote, "perhaps the finest river I have seen in N.S.Wales". It abounded "in fine fish and the water is of very good quality". He noted the "occasional fine flats near the River banks" and the

"fine timber trees", and he thought that "the land about Mollison's and Wood's Station is very favourable for sheep and has fine dry back runs well watered (or sheltered). The Plenty he demoted to a Creek, described as "a rivulet of fine water but running thro' a deep narrow ravine of very difficult access".⁹⁰ The Darebin he did not describe at all. He did not comment that the area was very close to the proposed centre of the new colony, which was to prove a disadvantage to the squatter as against the purchaser of land.

Stations were threaded like beads along the Yarra, linked by rough tracks. Mr. Willis was at first in a tent in "a nice situation in the fork formed by the junction of the Creek Plenty with the Yarra Yarra"⁹¹ and later to the north in his hut,⁹² but maps of the lower Darebin were bare of names and huts. Perhaps there were no permanent squatters, but there do seem to have been temporary camps. Colin and Alexander Campbell "spent the winter of 1839 on the Darebin Creek under canvas". They were presumably not far from the Yarra, for on Christmas Day Colin "saw a flock of sheep and half a dozen men nearly drowned in the Yarra",⁹³ which had suffered yet another in a succession of floods.

Those squatters of the Heidelberg district, whose background we know, were of quite a different social class from the sawyers. They certainly had to have very much more capital in order to establish themselves (unless they were acting as agents). The Wood brothers, like some or perhaps most of the sawyers, came from Van Diemen's Land, but they were the sons of Captain Wood, of Snakebank, not Derwenters (ex-convicts) as many of the sawyers were. The Woods, like others of their background, had been sent off with a few sheep because Tasmania had no more runs to offer. Other squatters had come from the old country: J.H. Kerr and his partner, and the Campbells, from Scotland.⁹⁴

However different their social status squatters and sawyers had a certain amount in common. The squatters were not engaged in extremely heavy and dangerous work as the sawyers were, and they had servants to carry out the more arduous duties on their runs, but the style they lived in could not have been much better. Thomas Walker, a Sydney merchant who overlanded from Sydney, and who was soon to buy up so much of Heidelberg, commented, after staying in Mollison's "open and comfortless" hut, that "upon the whole I never met with people living in a style more rude and rough, or with less attention to comfort, but to which they seem perfectly indifferent". They were "perfectly indifferent", Walker explained, because they were "aware it was only a temporary inconvenience": they thought to make their fortune.⁹⁵ So no doubt did the sawyers.

The squatter on a new run probably started off in a tent (as did the sawyer) and graduated to a hut, perhaps of wattle and daub, like the Willis' on the Plenty ⁹⁶ or perhaps of slabs like those inherited by Kerr from the Woods in Bulleen.⁹⁷ These simple huts with their bark roofs and chimneys sometimes of the local turf are reminiscent of the improvisatory building of the original inhabitants and, indeed, from some points of view, the squatters did not greatly mark the face of the land. (But the way in which they stripped bark killed the trees, while that of the aborigines didn't). The squatters did not build fences except where there was cultivation, but only stockyards. They used shepherds and movable hurdles to control the sheep. Where it was adequate they would have used brush⁹⁸ (the leptospermum and melaleuca of the scrubs would have served the purpose), although cattle, of which there were at least some in the district, would have required stouter structures. Thus it seems unlikely that the squatters cleared much timber on the flats or hills. Small areas of land were perhaps cultivated, but the squatting period in Heidelberg was really too short for much crop growing.

The great impact on the landscape came from the stock. Just how great it was in the short period the runs lasted we do not know, but the grazing of these animals initiated the great change which was to come to the riverlands. The new animals grazed the land quite differently from the native ones and their hard hooves trampled plants unaccustomed to such treatment and compacted the earth.⁹⁹ The effects of grazing after only a few years is illustrated in the Bateman drawing of the Plenty station already referred to (in the Section Appearance of the landscape).

The case of the murnong is a particularly important one, since this plant was a major part of the aborigines' vegetable diet. Dr. Gott has shown the disastrous effect of the new animals on this plant. As early as December 1839, a Goulburn aboriginal was saying that all the murnong had gone:

There were no param or tarook at Port Phillip
too many 'jumbuks' (sheep) and 'bulgana',
(bullocks, cattle) plenty eat it myrnyong - all
gone myrnyong.¹⁰⁰

The sheep, who loved the roots, had learned how to dig them out with their noses.¹⁰¹

It seems likely then, despite the comparative briefness of the squatters' stay in Heidelberg, that their animals had already greatly damaged the herbaceous plants of the woodland floor.

The aborigines and the first whites.

Little direct evidence appears to remain - or is readily available - on relations between the blacks and the whites who came into their territory as squatters, their servants, or sawyers. And the question of how much resistance the aborigines put up to this white invasion has not been fully answered.

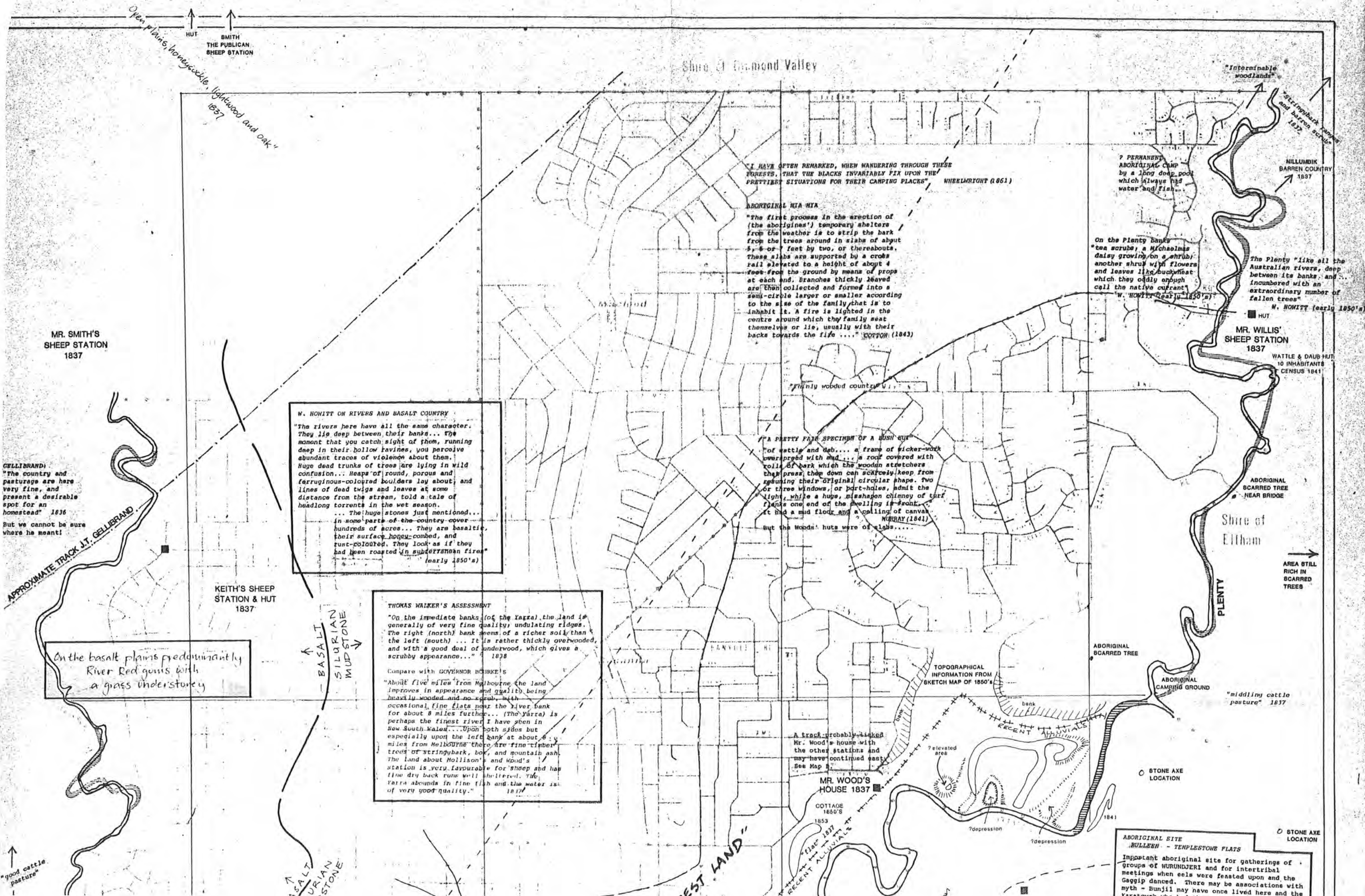
No white man, or woman, appears to have been harmed in any way by the aborigines who frequented Heidelberg, but it is quite possible that some of the blacks were harmed by whites.¹⁰² And certainly members of the tribes who met at Bolin (Bulleen) discussed whether or not they should attack the whites. Derrimut, a member of the Yarra tribe, betrayed the first such plan in order to save his white friend; later plans were thwarted by Billi-belleri (also of the Woiworung) who apparently saw that the whites were too powerful with their soldiers and generally armed population. He decided that a policy of loyal friendship was best, to the point that he not only warned the whites of the impending attack but took up arms with them.¹⁰³

When Kerr came to Bulleen in 1839 to take up the Woods' run he believed that the aborigines "were too well convinced of the strength of the white man to be dangerous",¹⁰⁴ and by that time settlement was well consolidated around Melbourne. But even at this stage perhaps not all the Kulin were convinced (as will be seen in the next section). And perhaps not even all the Woiworung were ready for a policy of loyal friendship, or as Beverley Blaskett argues, of "intelligent parasitism".¹⁰⁵ Kerr's partner had an encounter with the dreaded Jacky-Jacky, who, with a little band of supporters, terrorised the Yarra Valley at this time.¹⁰⁶ Was Jacky-Jacky simply an aboriginal criminal, an outlaw, or, as David Wilkinson suggests, did he represent a part of the Woiworung who had refused to accept the coming of the whites?¹⁰⁷

Kerr's insight into the aborigines did not go very deep, but he does give us some idea of what it was like for the aborigines on a run where the squatter was friendly towards them. The blacks were "frequent visitors" to his hut. They took him on hunting expeditions and he admired their skills in possum catching and the like. The aborigines had adopted some of the whites' technology: the spears with which they killed eels were iron tipped and iron tomahawks had already displaced stone by the time Kerr arrived.¹⁰⁸

He gives us no account, however, of the ways in which the blacks must have been suffering from the white intrusion, apart from the terrible effect "the diseases of civilisation" were having upon them.¹⁰⁹ He does

not, for instance, tell us anything of the vegetables and fruits which the aborigines gathered and whether their supplies of these had been affected. He does describe the blacks staying in camp until they had exhausted their Government rations, which he attributed to their being "essentially lazy",¹¹⁰ but for which there might have been quite different reasons. At any rate, the aborigines at Bulleen can be seen as still seeking to live their traditional life, and seeking to live it in peace with their squatter neighbours. They would have been well aware of what they had lost, but made what they could of their situation, accepting government handouts. In the Heidelberg district, during the brief period of the squatters' occupation, it might have seemed possible to live out some compromise between tradition and adaptation. But when the tribal lands were sold, fenced and cultivated, then the situation of the blacks was very different. They then lost all rights of occupation.



Open plains, horsecockle, lightwood and oak
 HUT
 SMITH
 THE PUBLICAN
 SHEEP STATION

Shire of Diamond Valley

"I HAVE OFTEN REMARKED, WHEN WANDERING THROUGH THESE FORESTS, THAT THE BLACKS INVARIABLY FIX UPON THE PRETTIEST SITUATIONS FOR THEIR CAMPING PLACES" WHEELWRIGHT (1861)

ABORIGINAL VIA VIA
 "The first process in the erection of (the aborigines') temporary shelters from the weather is to strip the bark from the trees around in slabs of about 5, 6 or 7 feet by two, or thereabouts. These slabs are supported by a cross rail elevated to a height of about 4 feet from the ground by means of props at each end. Branches thickly leaved are then collected and formed into a semi-circle larger or smaller according to the size of the family that is to inhabit it. A fire is lighted in the centre around which the family seat themselves or lie, usually with their backs towards the fire" COTTON (1843)

? PERMANENT ABORIGINAL CAMP by a long deep pool which always had water and fish...

HILLUMBIK BARREN COUNTRY 1837

On the Plenty banks "tea scrubs, a *Michaelis* daisy growing on a shrub; another shrub with flowers and leaves like buckwheat which they oddly enough call the native currant" W. HOWITT (early 1850's)

The Plenty "like all the Australian rivers, deep between its banks and incumbered with an extraordinary number of fallen trees" W. HOWITT (early 1850's)

HUT
 MR. WILLIS' SHEEP STATION 1837

WATTLE & DAUB HUT 10 INHABITANTS CENSUS 1841

MR. SMITH'S SHEEP STATION 1837

W. HOWITT ON RIVERS AND BASALT COUNTRY
 "The rivers here have all the same character. They lie deep between their banks... The moment that you catch sight of them, running deep in their hollow ravines, you perceive abundant traces of violence about them. Huge dead trunks of trees are lying in wild confusion... Heaps of round, porous and ferruginous-coloured boulders lay about, and lines of dead twigs and leaves at some distance from the stream, told a tale of headlong torrents in the wet season.
 ... The huge stones just mentioned... in some parts of the country cover hundreds of acres... They are basaltic, their surface honey-combed, and rust-coloured. They look as if they had been roasted in subterranean fires" (early 1850's)

"A PRETTY FAIR SPECIMEN OF A WUSH HUT" of wattle and dab... a frame of wicker-work overlaid with mud... a roof covered with rolls of bark which the wooden stretchers that press them down can sickly keep from assuming their original circular shape. Two or three windows, or port-holes, admit the light, while a huge, misshapen chimney of turf flanks one end of the dwelling... it had a mud floor and a ceiling of canvas. MURRAY (1841)
 But the Wodj's huts were of slabs....

GELLIBRAND: "The country and pasturage are here very fine, and present a desirable spot for an homestead" 1836
 But we cannot be sure where he meant!

APPROXIMATE TRACK J.T. GELLIBRAND

KEITH'S SHEEP STATION & HUT 1837

On the basalt plains predominantly River Red gums with a grass understory

THOMAS WALKER'S ASSESSMENT
 "On the immediate banks (of the Yarra) the land is generally of very fine quality; undulating ridges. The right (north) bank seems of a richer soil than the left (south) ... It is rather thickly overwooded, and with a good deal of underwood, which gives a scrubby appearance..." 1838
 Compare with GOVERNOR BURKE'S
 "About five miles from Melbourne the land improves in appearance and quality being heavily wooded and no scrub, with occasional fine flats near the river bank for about 8 miles further... (The Yarra) is perhaps the finest river I have seen in New South Wales... Upon both sides but especially upon the left bank at about 6 miles from Melbourne there are fine timber trees of stringybark, box, and mountain ash. The land about Hollison's and Wood's station is very favourable for sheep and has fine dry back runs well sheltered. The Yarra abounds in fine fish and the water is of very good quality." 1817

A track probably linked Mr. Wood's house with the other stations and may have continued east. See Map 8.

MR. WOOD'S HOUSE 1837

COTTAGE 1850'S

TOPOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FROM SKETCH MAP OF 1850'S

ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREE

ABORIGINAL CAMPING GROUND

"middling cattle pasture" 1837

STONE AXE LOCATION

ABORIGINAL SITE BULLEEN - TEMPLESTONE FLATS
 Important aboriginal site for gatherings of groups of WURUNDJERI and for intertribal meetings when eels were feasted upon and the Gaggip danced. There may be associations with myth - Bunjil may have once lived here and the Karatourk who had the...

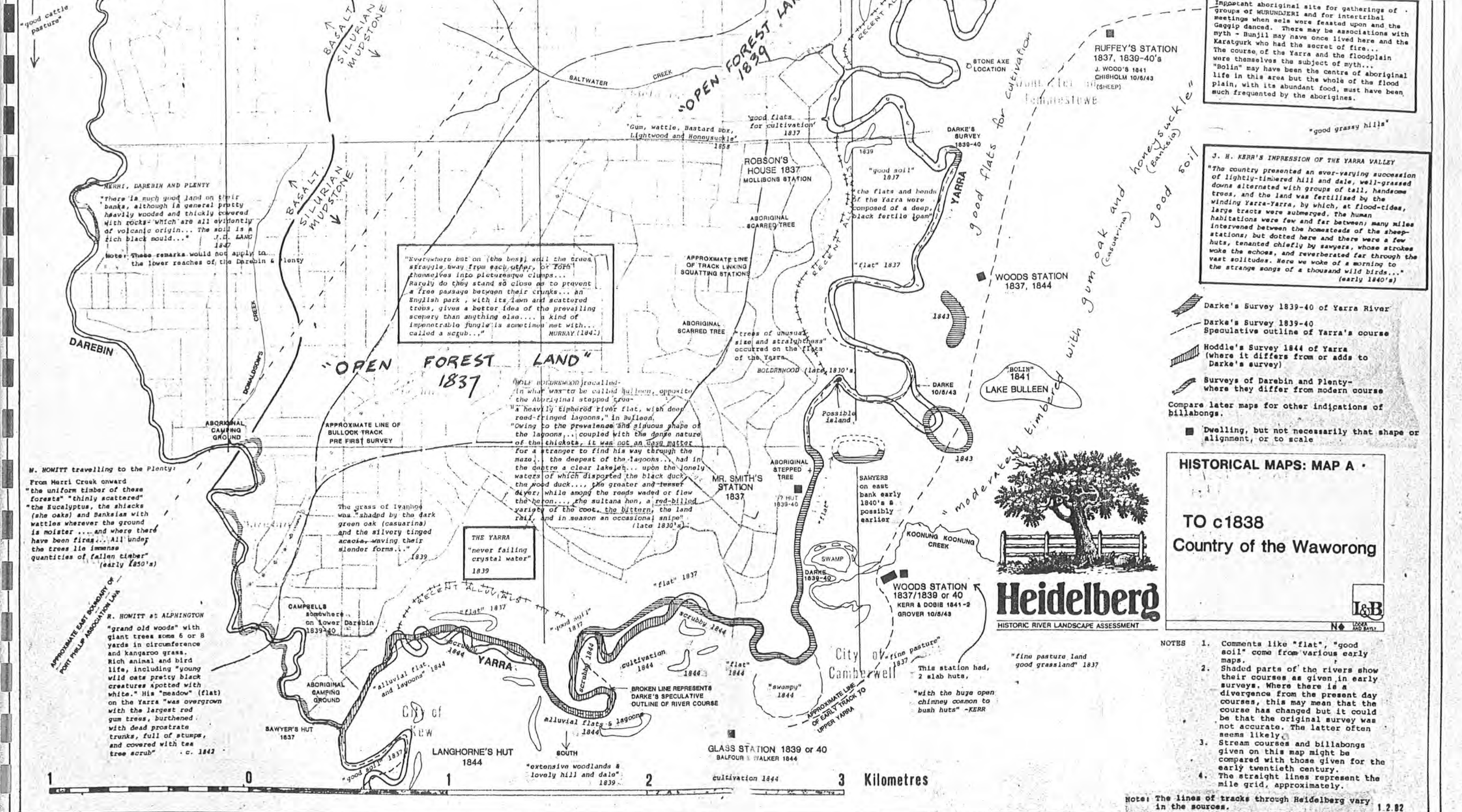
"good cattle pasture"

BASALT SILURIAN MUDSTONE

"EST LAND"

AREA STILL RICH IN SCARRED TREES

STONE AXE LOCATION



Important aboriginal site for gatherings of groups of WURUNDJERI and for intertribal meetings when sets were feasted upon and the Gaggig danced. There may be associations with myth - Bunjil may have once lived here and the Karatgurk who had the secret of fire... The course of the Yarra and the floodplain were themselves the subject of myth... "Bolin" may have been the centre of aboriginal life in this area but the whole of the flood plain, with its abundant food, must have been much frequented by the aborigines.

J. H. KERR'S IMPRESSION OF THE YARRA VALLEY

"The country presented an ever-varying succession of lightly-timbered hill and dale, well-grassed downs alternated with groups of tall, handsome trees, and the land was fertilized by the winding Yarra-Yarra, by which, at flood-tides, large tracts were submerged. The human habitations were few and far between; many miles intervened between the homesteads of the sheep-stations; but dotted here and there were a few huts, tenanted chiefly by sawyers, whose strokes woke the echoes, and reverberated far through the vast solitudes. Here we woke of a morning to the strange songs of a thousand wild birds..." (early 1840's)

Darke's Survey 1839-40 of Yarra River
 Darke's Survey 1839-40
 Speculative outline of Yarra's course
 Hoddle's Survey 1844 of Yarra
 (where it differs from or adds to Darke's survey)
 Surveys of Darabin and Plenty
 where they differ from modern course
 Compare later maps for other indications of billabongs.

■ Dwelling, but not necessarily that shape or alignment, or to scale



"Everywhere but on (the best) soil the trees sprang away from each other, or TOPS themselves into picturesque clumps... Rarely do they stand so close as to prevent a free passage between their trunks... An English park, with its lawn and scattered trees, gives a better idea of the prevailing scenery than anything else... a kind of impenetrable jungle is sometimes met with... called a scub..." MURRAY (1942)

Mr. MURRAY recalled in what was to be called Bullen, opposite the Aboriginal stepped tree... a heavily timbered river flat, with deep reed-fringed lagoons, in Bullen... "Owing to the prevalence of the sinuous shape of the lagoons... coupled with the dense nature of the thickets, it was not an easy matter for a stranger to find his way through the maze... the deepest of the lagoons... had in the centre a clear lakelet... upon the lonely waters of which disported the black duck, the wood duck... the greater and lesser diver; while among the reeds waded or flew the heron... the sultana hon, a red-billed variety of the coot, the bittern, the land rail, and in season an occasional snipe" (late 1830's)

The grass of Ivanhoe was shaded by the dark green oak (casuarina) and the silvery tinged acacia, waving their slender forms... 1839

There is such good land on their banks, although in general pretty heavily wooded and thickly covered with rocks which are all evidently of volcanic origin... The soil is a rich black mould... J. H. LAND 1840
 Note: These remarks would not apply to the lower reaches of the Darabin & Plenty

M. HOWITT travelling to the Plenty: From Merri Creek onward the uniform timber of these forests "thinly scattered" the Eucalyptus, the shiacks (she oaks) and Banksias with wattles wherever the ground is moister... and where there have been firs... All under the trees lie immense quantities of fallen timber (early 1850's)

R. HOWITT at ALPHINGTON "grand old woods" with giant trees some 6 or 8 yards in circumference and kangaroo grass. Rich animal and bird life, including "young wild oats pretty black creatures spotted with white." His "meadow" (flat) on the Yarra "was overgrown with the largest red gum trees, burthened with dead prostrate trunks, full of stumps, and covered with tea tree scrub" c. 1842

RUFFEY'S STATION 1837, 1839-40's
 J. WOOD'S 1841
 CHISHOLM 10/8/43 (SHEEP)

WOODS STATION 1837, 1844

ROBSON'S HOUSE 1837
 MOLLIBONS STATION

MR. SMITH'S STATION 1837

WOODS STATION 1837/1839 or 40
 KERR & DOBIE 1841-2
 GROVER 10/8/43

GLASS STATION 1839 or 40
 BALFOUR & WALKER 1844

CAMPBELL'S somewhere on lower Darabin 1839-40

SAWYER'S HUT 1837

LANGHORNE'S HUT 1844

"extensive woodlands & lovely hill and dale" 1839

City of Camberwell

This station had, 2 slab huts,

"with the huge open chimney common to bush huts" -KERR

"fine pasture land good grassland" 1837

1 0 1 2 3 Kilometres

PART II - MAP B 1838-1851.

"THE DISTINCTLY ARISTOCRATIC LOCALITY"¹The sale and subdivision of the Heidelberg and surrounding riverlands.

During 1837 the lands in Heidelberg along its rivers were surveyed, Portions marked out for sale and a reserve made for a village. (See Map.) The presence and length of river frontages to the Yarra (or lack of them), together with the varying fertility of the land determined the difference in prices between the Portions², so highly regarded were permanent waters and river flats. This first sale of riverlands took place on 12th September, 1838.

Only George Porter, who bought Portions 4 and 7, elected to hold onto his property. Thomas Wills, who had bought Portion 8 on the Plenty, sold out, but established the fine estate of Lucerne with its Yarra frontage and rich flats. With the exception of Porter's blocks, the Heidelberg Portions were quickly put up for sale for substantial profits, for it was a boom time for the new Colony.

Donald Garden has told the story of these subdivisions in his history of Heidelberg.³ In some areas the land passed from speculator to speculator and thus delayed the process of settlement; in other areas the boundaries of the lots were to be changed, while in others they laid down patterns and often boundaries of landholdings for the rest of the century - which can be seen when Map B is compared with later ones.

. . .

On the west side of the Darebin, south of the present Dundas Street, lands were sold in 1839 and 1840; again much went to speculators rather than to settlers, but Michael Pender was living on his property by 1843.⁵ North of Dundas Street most of the land was not to be subdivided for farms until much later, but there was one farm established in December 1839 which was soon to be managed by Thomas Farrell, an important figure in the history of West Heidelberg.⁶

To the east of the Plenty, Cleveland, (George Porter's property), extended across from the Heidelberg side; to the north of that another large block remained unsubdivided until the 1850's.⁷

Bulleen's fate was different. By virtue of the Land Regulations of 1840 a Special Survey was bought by F.W. Unwin in March, 1841. His Survey was revised in 1844 to extend to the Yarra on the east; its southern

boundary was the Koonung Creek.⁸ The Bulleen riverlands were initially leased out to small farmers on what was known as the Carlton - or Carleton - estate (it was subdivided on 28th September, 1844),⁹ but by 1850 there were several "purchased" farms on the Survey. (See Map B.) South of the Koonung lay Elgar's Survey while to the west the riverlands of Kew had been sold in substantial lots by 1845 or 1846; before that they were still held by squatters.¹⁰

The new landscape

The primacy of the rivers in Heidelberg's development was well expressed in the layout as imposed by subdivision: this was put picturesquely by R.D. Murray who wrote that the land along the Yarra was divided like "so many ribbands placed side by side",¹¹ and the same description could be applied to the properties along the Darebin and Plenty.

During the boom the speed of change in some areas - especially along the Yarra - was remarkable, for some buyers had ample capital or credit. By October, 1839, Hawdon's, Smyth's, Sylvester Brown's, Snodgrass', McArthur's and Porter's were all described as "highly improved Estates",¹² and others were soon to be so. Some areas, however, would have shown little obvious change. Speculators did not necessarily fence their land or clear it, although they might have leased it to graziers or farmers. Farmers with little capital could not proceed very fast with these expensive tasks. Along the Darebin it seems likely that most of the riverlands, both east and west, did not alter greatly, while the estates of the Yarra opposite Bulleen and Kew for some years looked out over squatters' runs.

Heidelberg was, then, a district of great contrasts, as R.D. Murray remarked, noticing particularly the contrast of the civilised villas and cultivated lands of the Yarra juxtaposed with (what was to him) the gloomy primeval forest.¹³ At about the same time Richard Howitt made the same point. The Yarra's flats and slopes, and the Plenty's too, were extensively cultivated, "emerald green crops of corn contrasting admirably with the dingy colour of the wild interminable woodlands".¹⁴ The contrast was stronger at Heidelberg because Heidelberg had a particularly strong concentration of the well-to-do. But even along the Yarra, where the wealthy lived, progress was not continuous, and the depression of 1841-3 severely affected a large proportion of them, as well as the less well off,¹⁵ causing some cultivated land to be deserted and returned to grazing.¹⁶

Despite these setbacks, a new landscape was being realised at Heidelberg in the 1840's. It reflected an ideal:

The poetry of the future, with its smiling fields and its peaceful population and its village spires peeping out from every romantic glen of the Australian river.¹⁷

The ideal for Heidelberg was not the grand scale landscape of pastoral runs, squatters and sheep - and certainly not that of the German University town after which it was named - but of a closely settled, well cultivated countryside, like that remembered or imagined of the homeland.

"The distinctly aristocratic locality".¹⁸

In the early 1840's Heidelberg was seen as the special place at which, above all others, gentlemen - or those who saw themselves as gentlemen - could live, quite close to Melbourne, but not quite in it.

Many of the estate owners at Heidelberg appear in Paul de Serville's superb study Port Phillip Gentlemen as belonging to those charmed circles, and others not mentioned by him may also have belonged; yet others were of that socially respectable class, which while not admitted to the best society, shared many, although not all the attitudes of the gentry.

The gentlemen were those of proven gentle birth, or those whose claims of being gently born were accepted by society, or who followed - or had followed - the accepted gentlemanly professions and were prominent in society.¹⁹ They formed their own enclave and tried to live as far as possible as they might have done - as gentlemen - back home.²⁰ They believed themselves to be the natural leaders in the new colony. Their attempt to lead failed when responsible government came,²¹ but they were influential in the creation of the new society, helping to form its institutions and shaping its activities: founding the Melbourne Club, and assisting in the development of banking, for example, as well as holding assemblies, horse races and regattas.²² Not all the grand estates, however, were owned by gentlemen in the strict sense of the word. Thomas Wills, who could hardly have been rated as a gentleman with an ex-convict for a father, nevertheless was a respected public figure, with one of the most beautiful of the estates, worthy of any of the "gentlemen". He shared many of their ideals and pre-occupations as far as estate management was concerned.

Garden provides us with much information on the owners of prestige estates in terms of their roles in both Port Phillip and Heidelberg societies; de Serville provides an even grander context for them. And it is clear from his work that even after 1851 the Port

Phillip gentlemen continued to contribute to this society, since their group produced or inspired a literature whose equal in social portraiture was certainly not found in any other Australian colony: It is to the Victorian enclave that Henry Kingsley, "Rolf Boldrewood", Henry Handel Richardson and Martin Boyd belong.²³ Rolf Boldrewood, author of Robbery under Arms, one of Australia's most famous novels, was a son of Sylvester John Brown(e) of Hartlands and knew the Heidelberg of the 1840's and 1850's well. Martin Boyd was a descendent of the Martins of Viewbank.²⁴ To this it should be added that their shaping of parts of early Victoria, of which Heidelberg was a notable one, was of very great importance: not just for its physical effects but also for its effects on the culture and imagination of the new society.

The owners of the prestige estates of Heidelberg hoped to make money out of their properties, so that they were naturally drawn to the riverlands as prime agricultural country; the breezy hills were seen as healthy²⁵ and the scenery generally highly praised, as can be seen by the comparisons with the romantic Heidelberg of Germany,²⁶ or Mammern near Lake Constance in Switzerland.²⁷ The Australian "Alps", seen from many of the houses, were perhaps a little exaggerated in size and ruggedness in some of the drawings of the time.²⁸ Closer to home, the open grassed woodland of much of Heidelberg was a happy reminder of the English park²⁹ - but not for the Frenchman Fauchery, who found the country infinitely tedious.³⁰ The picturesque groupings of the eucalypts on the hillside and the majesty of the red gums on the flats pleased, although their "dull green" and lack of "a rich burden of foliage"³¹ was considered a drawback. The Casuarinas (perhaps because conifers were so popular) and the wattles were admired, particularly *A. dealbata*, with its silvery tinged feathery foliage³² and brilliant golden flowers.³³

In this lovely setting the owners of the estates and their visitors enjoyed many pleasures. These may have been gilded in recollection or imagination, but surely we must believe in the deliciousness of the "al fresco entertainments of Mr. R. H. Browne", a social celebrity of the day, "most sentimental speculator, most refined of land agents",³⁴ who may have named Heidelberg and whose Portion 6 was known as the Heidelberg Estate.³⁵ Certainly picnics, riding and shooting must have been the order of the day, as well as entertainments in the villas. There is no mention of bathing at Heidelberg but Susan Priestly says that swimming (not only in the sea but also in rivers) was highly regarded for both enjoyment and health from the 1840's.³⁶ David Charteris McArthur of Charterisville is said to have been the first person to row from Heidelberg to Melbourne, no mean feat, especially given the many snags.³⁷

The Heidelberg "aristocracy", like the rest of the district's population, was young (the Census of 1841 showed that there were few people over 45); it had style and elegance, gaiety and energy, (as Richard Howitt's description of carriages and riders on the Heidelberg Road memorably brings out),³⁸ and its members enjoyed a freedom and spontaneity in their lives that may have been lacking in Britain: so, at any rate, thought Mary Stawell.³⁹ Rolf Boldrewood believed that theirs was a group "by no means undistinguished, or devoid of culture and refinement "and" among whom the ordinary social amenities proper to all British were carried out in an agreeable and harmonious manner".⁴⁰ This was so, but it was not always easy to live with grace, especially perhaps for the mature women of the families, as Paul de Serville has pointed out.⁴¹

The prestige estates.

By far the most prestigious estates were on the Yarra, from Ivanhoe to Cleveland on the north of the river with Lucerne on the south of it. But there were also charming estates on the Plenty: Westbank, Woodside and the Plenty Station of the Bakewells. High prices had been paid for the land on the Lower Darebin⁴² with its splendid views: the Hordern property in particular may have been developed during the 1840's, but no information has been found on it.

The owners were men of diverse interests: most had pastoral interests elsewhere, some commuted to Melbourne to look after business interests as Map B shows.⁴³ Both gentlemen and others belonging to the respectable class who were not members of society shared a common culture, which led to the creation of certain common characteristics in their estates.

They knew how to site their houses for pictorial effect. Most chose eminences but not the highest points of their land, and their gracious houses in their "fresh light colours"⁴⁴ must have sat well in the landscape, while contrasting with it. At Banyule alone was there any attempt at high drama with the tall Scottish baronial house placed on its steep swell above the river flats. Prout's picture of 1847⁴⁵ shows how striking the effect must have been: the tall white house stood out against a receding landscape of wild forested hills and ranges, with no suggestion of other human occupation, (the little which existed was probably conveniently concealed by trees.) None of the other houses were as imposing; most were weatherboard as,⁴⁶ indeed, was Hawdon's first house before Banyule was built (by 1847);⁴⁷ the first section of the Bakewells house was a simple but charming prefab brought out from England,⁴⁸ and Hartlands may have been rather ramshackle.⁴⁹ But whatever the style and

expense of the house the panorama created at Heidelberg was a special one, and one which the common culture, as well as other considerations, had created. In 1864 one viewer urged that a painting be done from Bulleen, taking in the villas of Porter, Martin and Hawdon, together with the Heidelberg church.⁵⁰ The church was St. John's (1849-1851) and it marked the completion of Heidelberg's unique panorama.

Most of the houses were well up on the hillsides, up above the riverlands. But Chelsworth was built close to the Yarra, on an eminence above it: the oldest section (of timber) may, however, have been built around 1859-60, rather than in the 1840's.⁵¹ The house on the original Banyule, owned by Arthur Hogue, was built very close to the river, before 1843. An advertisement for it in that year read:

The residence is a substantial and well-built two-storey verandah cottage, in excellent repair, containing seven rooms (situated on a high commanding knoll within ten yards of the river), surrounded by an excellent garden and orchard. The latter is well stocked with fruit trees and vines of the choicest variety in full bearing.⁵²

Gardens were started quickly. Sometimes - perhaps usually - good specimens of native plants were kept (at Charterisville and Banyule, for example);⁵³ admired native plants would be put in, but mainly exotics were planted - old favourites from home like the gorse from Nottingham at the Bakewells',⁵⁴ and plants which reflected the nineteenth century thirst for the horticulturally new, some of which could only live in greenhouses in Britain. (In the 1850's William Howitt noted "the strangest and most foreign looking things" growing in the open - loquats, date-palms, prickly pears, cacti and cereuses.)⁵⁵

Orchards were indispensable. The garden at Charterisville flowed down the hill and ended with grape vines on the lower slopes and an orchard on the flat.⁵⁶ Every property would have had its mixed orchard, on the river flat or the valley slopes: Viewbank had a grove of orange trees on its riverland.⁵⁷ The Heidelberg proprietors were enthusiasts for vines and wine-making. The first vines in Victoria are said to have been planted further up the Yarra by the Ryries in 1838: it seems that Heidelberg was not slow to follow, but there is not a great deal of information, especially on this early period. In 1845, however, we are told that there were 5 acres of vines on the Yarra and the same on the Plenty (the Bakewells' and possibly Woodside) but none on the Darebin.⁵⁸ Grapes were probably usually grown on the slopes above the flats and a picture of the

Plenty Station in the 1840's shows part of the steep bank up from the flat so planted,⁵⁹ but in the 1850's William Howitt saw many growing on the flat there with the slopes only partly planted with them. This was unusual: Howitt thought that the vines on the flat would produce better table grapes but less good wine than those grown on slopes.⁶⁰

Farming on the prestige estates.

Clearing.

The prestige estates were required to be elegant, to be civilised. At the same time they were expected to pay. Cultivation seemed the obvious use for the river flats with their extraordinary fertility and easily-worked soil. (Was the evidence of high floods ignored, or forgotten, in the drought of the first years of settlement? Perhaps major floods were thought to be infrequent?) At any rate, according to Murray, it was the most fertile soils which were cleared first, although the worst to clear because of the great size of the trees. But the high cost of clearing and fencing meant that most could afford to do this work only on "the best description of land". It was done a little at a time,⁶¹ for ringbarking was as yet little used, and to hole and grub was very time consuming.⁶²

Surviving pictures suggest that where land was cultivated for crops, ruthless clearance was made of the native plants.⁶³ A few trees, in these pictures, were left on the banks and an occasional shrub, or shrubs, especially those growing where the banks were steep, as was the case with the Yarra at Warringal itself, and perhaps also where the land was very frequently flooded. This clearance was not purely utilitarian; owners seem often to have intended to replant along the streams with willows, oaks, or mixed plantings. (A picture of the Plenty at the Bakewells', drawn in the 1850's, shows just such a planting, where an earlier painting shows a completely stripped bank.)⁶⁴

Some native plants did remain, or came back. Around Fanning's orchard, planted in 1859 on one of the bends, scrub grew, thus preventing or delaying erosion by the water which was continually washing over it,⁶⁵ and wattles fringed the river near St. John's, so that the Yarra looked like a "golden serpent" at blossom time.⁶⁶ But in general few native plants were spared on the flats where the plough could be used. It was a different matter on the uplands where the open woodland was useful for grazing, was attractively parklike and where the timber was a useful resource, although land was also cultivated away from the river, as at Chelsworth⁶⁷ and the Plenty Station,⁶⁸ and vines and orchards were to be found on the slopes as

mentioned earlier. But we can imagine the villas standing in their young gardens, with many conifers and yet bright with flowers, and the various farm buildings grouped nearby, but still with the sombre greens of the eucalypts all around or at no great distance.

Crops

Below on the flats the colour was very different: that of ploughed land, or the vivid green of grass or grains, turning to yellow in season; the differing greens of vegetables and fruit trees, patches of blossom in the spring. In this early period wheat was widely grown in this district, as elsewhere around Melbourne (it was a dietary staple, along with mutton).⁶⁹ If the early statistics can be trusted, in the year 1845 about 3/5ths of the cultivated land in the County of Bourke (land along the Yarra, Darebin and Plenty being included) was given over to wheat, with oats as a substantial crop and smaller quantities of potatoes and barley. Other crops were also grown; lucerne,⁷⁰ on the Yarra and the Plenty (it was surely grown by Thomas Wills) and hops at the Plenty Station⁷¹ and possibly at Banyule.⁷² There were no "gardens" noted on the Darebin in 1845 but 5 acres on the Plenty and 41 on the Yarra.⁷³ "Gardens" could have meant orchards or market gardens.

The amount of land under cultivation fluctuated. During the depression of the early 1840's many fields formerly cultivated were left unploughed,⁷⁴ and when this happened the invasion of wattles and other plants began on the neglected ground.⁷⁵

Animals

Some of the animals of the estates would have been seen on the flats, although, unfortunately, we have no direct evidence on just how they were managed in relation to cultivation. They would have needed to have had access to stream water or to billabongs in the early days.

The Boldens of Leighton have a place in the history of cattle breeding in Australia because they imported some leading shorthorns. Some very famous animals of their time are said to have grazed at Leighton before proceeding up country. The Boldens sold these fine cattle rather than establishing a stud themselves, but their herd was a fine one⁷⁶ and Chelsworth had a shorthorn stud.⁷⁷

It has been said, although no evidence was offered, that Banyule was a sheep stud for some time⁷⁸ - until it was found unsuitable - and Prout's picture of 1847 certainly shows sheep grazing on the river flats, although it must be remembered that not all artists are photo-realists.

At the time of the 1841 Census Archibald Thom of 'Heidelberg' (see Map) had five shepherds - if we can trust the Census; five seems a large number. William Stothert (Strothert?), who lived on Viewbank with James Williamson, had four shepherds, according to the Census - again a high number. It may have been that the sheep were on agistment at Heidelberg before moving on: certainly such small properties could not hold a profitable number of sheep,⁷⁹ except for breeding purposes, or perhaps fattening for meat for a short time. Most of the landowners' workers were gardeners or stockmen, again according to the Census, suggesting that most owners preferred cattle as livestock. The Rev. Mr. Bolden of Leighton was urging that cattle should be used in "moister and more thinly wooded districts" only a short time later.⁸⁰ Much later on however D. McArthur won a prize for his Leicester sheep at the local show in 1880.⁸¹

All the estates would have had fine horses for carriage work and riding, as well as draught horses. This would have distinguished the wealthy from the poorer farmer, who would have felt well off if he had been able to afford bullocks (much cheaper and much better able to cope with bad roads than horses)⁸² with a pony for lighter carrying work. William Grieg on the Plenty had such a pony and hoped to buy bullocks both for his own use and to hire out.⁸³

Fencing

Owners of the prestige estates were better able than other farmers with less capital to fence their properties. According to Murray, fencing at Port Phillip in the early 1840's was usually post and rail, usually about 5 feet high⁸⁴ (2 or 3 rail), and in some pictures of the time fences do seem to be about that height.⁸⁵ This is not to say that all the Heidelberg estates were adequately fenced, as we shall see shortly.

The fences around houses and their ornamental gardens would usually have been different. Around the Bakewells, for example, there seems initially to have been a rather roughly made picket fence, at least 5 feet high.⁸⁶

Hedging

Hedging is discussed in Section C. (1851-1863).

Draining the flats

There is little information about drainage works on the flats at this period. By 1843 drainage works of some kind had been carried out on the original Banyule property,⁸⁷ where the river flats were particularly

swampy. There was a drain in 1857 which appears to have run along the former boundary between the original Banyule and Hawdon's property⁸⁸ (see Map C), and this may well have been a part, or possibly even the whole of the work of the early 40's on Hawdon's own property. But since the flats were so extensively cultivated it seems likely that there were drains dug elsewhere at this time; against the idea of there having been very extensive works was the expense of labour and the depression which would have severely curtailed operation not carried out before it.

Raising the Standard

The gentlemen of Heidelberg in those early years were enthusiasts for the progress of agriculture. They joined with others in the formation of societies to that end, both agricultural and horticultural, and their names appear as prize-winners at the shows.⁸⁹ These societies were modelled on British examples, and the British Societies fed them information on farming techniques, not all necessarily appropriate for Australia.⁹⁰

The gentlemen on the estates at Heidelberg were fortunate in that they generally had good land, much more land than the average cropping farmer in the Port Phillip District (who usually had around 100 acres, following the English pattern);⁹¹ they also had much more capital and usually other sources of livelihood: the banker D.C. McArthur's Charterisville, for example, was described as a "fancy farm",⁹² reminding us of today's hobby farms. The gentlemen were, then, able to experiment, and they could also afford to protect and preserve their land. Unfortunately, there is little information on just how good, in terms of such goals, their farming was. If they followed the precepts of "high" farming, they would have engaged in careful cultivation, the rotation of crops, fertilising the soil, drainage, and in raising livestock as well as cropping.⁹³ They certainly kept livestock, as well as cropping, as we have already seen, and theoretically it might have been expected that these exceptionally placed owners might have followed such practices as crop rotation and fertilisation. We do not know if this was so. They might, like many others (as we shall see in part III) have been tempted by the idea that the virgin soils of the river flats were inexhaustible, not needing the care of well used soils. No peas or other conditioning crops were being grown in 1845 according to the one set of statistics we have for the period and no pasture plants, apart from lucerne (6 acres on the Plenty, 9 on the Yarra).⁹⁴

These estates, so unusual in the Colony, were made possible by location, wealth and culture. Rolf Boldrewood - and no doubt many others - looked back to the 1840's as an Arcadian period.⁹⁵

But the Arcadian life was threatened - and even destroyed for some - by the depression of the early 1840's, and the new environment proved not altogether as smiling as it had seemed at first. It was, however, the gold rushes that brought the Arcadian time to an end for most owners of the prestige estates.

Amenities.

Meanwhile, however, the proprietors had succeeded in bringing about major improvements to the district. A road to Melbourne, and bridges over the Darebin had been built, and a rather rough one over the Plenty. A punt crossed the Yarra at Banksia Street, possibly by 1839 but probably later.⁹⁶

A village was needed to service the estates. Although a plan for one had been drawn up by November 1839 land sales did not begin until 1845 and the village was not large at this time nor did it have the cosy and picturesque character of so many English ones (it was described by the Frenchman Fauchery in 1852 as "some sixty ugly huts spread out at intervals at the bottom of a wide, shallow valley").⁹⁷ But it had acquired St. John's Anglican Church, reminiscent of so many English parish churches, and most charmingly situated. The village had also acquired its first pub, although it was not desired by all the gentry,⁹⁸ and it was most fittingly named the "Old England". By then there was already a hotel at the Darebin Creek crossing and there was a Bridge Inn near the Plenty River.⁹⁹

Estate workers and small farmers.

The estates sometimes employed many workers, some free born, some ticket-of-leave, and some possibly ex-convicts or even convicts¹⁰⁰ who would have lived on the properties, presumably in the cluster of buildings close to the villa residences of the owners. Some lived on the river flats. The cottage of the Woods (the squatters), for example, was surely used by someone employed by Hawdon, or so an early picture suggests.¹⁰¹

Workers on the estates did not stand in quite the same relationship to the gentry and their families as they would have done back in Britain. Mary Stawell painted a pleasing picture. "There was no word of the Manor, nor were there any people in a dependent position, all had abundance."¹⁰² The picture may be too rosy but the shortage of labour generally during the period put the workers in a strong position.

In the agricultural areas close to Melbourne there were many small allotments, often cropped by tenants or by men buying their land on terms.¹⁰³ Such was the case in Bulleen, on Unwin's Survey, where there was a mix of tenanted and purchased farms by the 1850's. (See Map)

Garden has estimated that in the early 1850's about 6,000 acres of the 7,714 acres of Heidelberg's acres were properties of 100 acres or more, many much larger,¹⁰⁴ so there was not a great deal of opportunity at this time for the small farmer to purchase land.

The other possibility was to work as a tenant and some of the great properties did have tenants (see Map). Unfortunately, we have little information on other areas. But clearly a great deal of this land was not cultivated at this time, although some may have been grazed.

We do know something of William Grieg, who tried to establish himself on the Plenty (see Map B), purchasing on terms. Unlike the case of the big proprietors, his little strip of land was his all, or virtually so. He had not enough capital, nor enough expertise, and he certainly was not prepared for the difficulties and disasters which befell him in the short time he was on his land.¹⁰⁵

Richard Howitt, at Alphington, also failed and left his farm. He has left us a most vivid description of the difficulties the farmer faced in the new environment.¹⁰⁶ These were difficulties that the wealthier as well as the poorer faced, but the latter had less chance of riding them out. The land, devastated by clearing and ploughing, certainly seems to have got its revenge, as elsewhere. Howitt suffered a plague of grasshoppers, while Grieg found that the local rats thoroughly enjoyed a novel food: they played "havoc among the potatoes, going down the drills regularly and eating them up by the very roots".¹⁰⁷

Very serious for Howitt were the floods, since, as for those farming in Heidelberg, the flats were so important to him. Floods occurred at Christmas in 1839, July 1842, October 1842, October 1844, October 1848 and November 1849.¹⁰⁸ Farmers had to learn to sow their crops later than usual when planting on the Yarra flats.¹⁰⁹ Heidelberg was, however, spared fires. At any rate none are recorded. The great fire of February, 1851 raged down the Plenty but did not get as far as our district.

Fencing was expensive and so was not always done before the land was under crop,¹¹⁰ if funds were short. Makeshift affairs of brush were used, described by

William Howitt in the 1850's as "simply the trees as they are felled thrown along in long lines, and their branches piled upon them."¹¹¹ Wandering stock could be a real threat to the farmers, as Richard Howitt discovered when a "short-horned Durham bull", "a famous animal - a gentleman of a beast" (surely from Leighton) took to devouring his unprotected cabbages.¹¹²

Nor could the poorer farmer always clear his land as well as a richer. William Westgarth was disapproving of those farmers who left "the stumps of the felled timber" to raise "their stiff heads amongst the waving crops";¹¹³ it may have been a waste of valuable land but holing and grubbing were costly and arduous. Indeed, probably even the best of estates would not match English ones for neatness. The cost was too high, as Murray observed in 1843.¹¹⁴

Some small farmers were to do well, especially some of those on the fertile riverlands - but by no means all. Their farming practices and way of life are discussed more fully in Part III.

Exeunt Aborigines.

Where a squatter was genial, like J.H. Kerr, it had been possible for the aborigines to arrive at some temporary modus vivendi with the white newcomers. But permanent settlement, with clearly substantial houses, fencing, wholesale clearance of the land and extensive cultivation could not allow it.

But the Yarra tribe and others of the Kulin still visited Heidelberg after their lands had been sold, for the locality was, as we have seen, of special importance to them, apart from being portion of the territory of the Woiworung. In May 1840, Armyne Bolden (of Leighton) was complaining that "there are now encamped in my paddock on the Yarra Yarra.... from two to three hundred blacks, I believe belonging to the Port Phillip and Goulburn tribes. My men told me that last night, the blacks threatened to burn the huts, and drive them away and at this time the blacks had from twenty to thirty guns and one musket". Bolden claimed that the next morning he had found that there were guns at the encampment.¹¹⁵ Were the blacks demonstrating a natural hostility to the new state of affairs or were they deliberately provoked? It is impossible to know. It is likely that Armyne Bolden was prejudiced against the aborigines,¹¹⁶ but it may have been his men who were responsible. It does seem probable that the aborigines were provoked to some extent, or misunderstood, but they must, in any event have hoped that their right to stay on the property from time to time would have been recognised. A year later large numbers of blacks were said to be frightening Mrs.

Bolden and the children.¹¹⁷ In November, 1841 blacks were alleged to have molested settlers on the Darebin and Plenty: the Assistant Protector William Thomas decided, on investigation, that the outrages had not taken place and that the whites, in fear, had misinterpreted the aborigines requests for food.¹¹⁸

The aborigines' situation was becoming increasingly desperate. The year before they had chosen either Melbourne or Bolin for their reserve and had been refused, since Melbourne was held to be too corrupting and Bolin not far enough from it. They reluctantly chose Narre Warren for the reserve but when it came to the point would not stay there. They returned to Bolin in March and June 1841, only to find that the area had been sold.¹¹⁹ Thomas realised the importance of Bolin to them, if perhaps only for the fact that its eels could support them for one month a year.

When Bolin and the few lagoons adjacent becomes (sic) private property it will be one of the most serious losses hitherto sustained by the blacks.

He appealed to the Governor, but with no result.¹²⁰

Bolin still called the aborigines. In December of 1843 many hundreds gathered there again and Thomas witnessed the 'gaggip', a ceremonial dance used to weld the bonds between the Kulin tribes.¹²¹ The complete lack of comprehension of the plight of the blacks on the part of even intelligent whites of the time is shown by "Garryowen's" brutal description of what happened in September 1847. "Small remnants" of the Yarra, Westernport and Goulburn tribes, "a mendicant drunken nuisance", he wrote, decided to leave Melbourne. The more effectually to shake off all clings of civilisation they discarded all the tattered European raiment worn, made heaps of and burned it, and then collecting a few invalid adults and weakly children, they placed them in some 'mia-mias' over the river near Heidelberg, and cleared out.¹²²

They went up to the mountains, following the ancestral pathway - to resume the traditional life of hunting and gathering. Perhaps only Thomas understood their need to escape, if only temporarily, from their new world.¹²³ In 1852 the small remnants gathered again at Bolin for what proved to be the last inter-tribal gathering: it was not held at Bolin, however, for Thomas persuaded them to move up the river to the Pound Bend Reserve near Warrandyte.¹²⁴

By 1858 the Yarra tribe numbered only 33.¹²⁵ By the 60's they had been forced to accept the fact that they could no longer go where they willed in their own lands and they agreed to settle. Acheron was to be the site but they were ordered to move on to Mohican, in order to satisfy local whites. With amazing spirit they refused to go there. Finally Coranderrk (near Healesville) was chosen after consultation between blacks and whites, and the tiny remnant of the Waworong, together with members of other tribes, set out to attempt to live in the white man's way.¹²⁶



Shire of Diamond Valley

ALONG THE YARRA ONE CAN SEE "THE RUGGED FEATURES OF A NEW COUNTRY BROUGHT INTO CLOSEST CONTACT WITH THE QUIET LOOK THAT ACCOMPANIES THE LABOURS OF AGRICULTURE. NOWHERE IS THIS SO STRIKING AS IN THE VICINITY OF HEIDELBERG... FROM ANY OF THE HEIGHTS OVERLOOKING THE RIVER, YOU SEE IT WINDING THROUGH A NARROW VALLEY OF RICH, ALLUVIAL SOIL, TREMING WITH CULTIVATION WHEREVER THE PLOUGH HAS DRAWN A FURROW, ON THE SLOPES ARE DISPERSED HOUSES AND VILLAS, SURROUNDED WITH GARDENS AND FENCES AND ALL THE COMFORTS OF AN ENGLISH HOME; BUT WHEREVER THE AXE IS BID TO PAUSE, THERE THE PRINCEVAL FOREST RISES TO VIEW, SHOWING A FRONT OF DARK FOLIAGE, WHICH, AS FAR AS THE FOREST EXTENDS, WRAPS HILL AND VALLEY IN ITS GLOOM."
MURRAY 1843

A water frontage was of high importance; hence the land appeared like "so many ribbands placed side by side"
MURRAY

FERTILITY OF THE SOIL
The fertility of the fertile soils is "exceeded by no other land in the same region of the world"
MURRAY 1843

ALEXANDER THEN S.J. BROWN

BROWN

146 WALKER 1125a

A dairy farm managed by Thos. PARRELL somewhere on the DAREBIN in PRESTON

145

GOWER 527a

158 DUNDALE

McLEAN Strathallan 1842

Oct. 1840 - Feb. 1841
Wm. GREIG on Lot 8 hired bullock team. Cleared stumps from river flats, proposed to grow potatoes... He planted mungard and cress, cabbages, turnips, peas, carrots, spinach, melons, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, cauliflowers, broccoli and onions. Had chickens and a pony to fetch supplies. Had few fences... Later proposed to dairy farm and hire out a bullock team...

CLEARING
Generally only the most fertile lands (the river flats) were at first cleared because it was so expensive. Ringbarking was not then used; proper clearing involved "holing and grubbing" at an average £5 per acre in open forest land
MURRAY 1843

GRAZING
There were certainly cattle, including bullocks. On the prestige estates, there were beautiful horses, for riding and to draw carriages, and there were some draught-horses (but bullock teams are said to have done most of the work at this time).
Sheep are not often mentioned.

Settlement did not begin until 1845

1839 N.A. FENWICK 1845 Wm. LAING (ULTIMATELY)

PORTION 8 "WOODSIDE" (later 'Casa Maria') single storey section dates from 1830's; front section probably by Laing.

Capt. Benjamin BARTER then (1840) Patrick TURNBULL, who fenced cleared and stocked it

The Bakewell prefabricated wooden house was "situated beautifully on an eminence... In it, with its thin walls and French windows, you scarcely seemed indoors." A big sag park led to a garden on the flat, full of magnificent trees and grapevines. Gorse from Nottingham seed grew in the garden...
R. HOWITT 1845 (visiting May, 1842)

John & Robt. BAKEWELL Pastoral interests & wool sorting. They gradually acquired several parcels of land to create this property which finally took the form shown here in 1850.

"The commencement of the vast and sterile stringybark forests" R. HOWITT

Westbank J.M. HALL Pastoralist; leases on Yarra and Plenty "Mr. Hall's pretty cottage and garden" 1843

BRIDGE 1842 "picturesquely formed of trees laid across covered with poles athwart again and lastly overlaid with large sheets of stringybark" R. HOWITT

1847 BRIDGE NW NEAR PLENTY MR. TURNBULL "substantial good-looking country house" opposite site to Mr. Hall's 1842

50 LINKS WIDE OCCUPATION ROAD 1840

PORTION 6: THE HEIDELBERG ESTATE

R.H. BROWNE gave "Heidelberg" as his address in July 1839 - apparently the first use of the name... 268 a sheep 1841

Banyule Arthur HOOPER 1839/40 - let to Arch. THOMAS Pastoral interests. Land cleared, drained, stumped, fenced. House (by 1842) garden, orchard (substantial) 2 storied verandah cottage of 7 rooms - brick and wood. P.P. Patriot. BOUGHT BY JOSEPH HAWDON 1843

192a. sheep 1841 Viewbank James WILLIAMSON 1839/40 - 1843 Part let to Mr. BROTHERS 1845 Both lived on property 1841 "gentle residence, detached stables, coach house & gardens." (weatherboard 1841 Census) Dr. Robert MARTIN Medico & pastoralist 1842 bought property

100a. G.S. GREENAWAY 1840

219a. Jos. HAWDON 1839/40 PASTORALIST. Property "Highly improved"

Weatherboard house (1840) to site of present BANYULE GARDEN AT BACK OF HOUSE? PRESENT STONE HOUSE BUILT BY 1842? POSSIBLE SITE OF VERNER'S HOUSE

Wm. VERNER WEALTHY GENTLEMAN 1839/40 WEATHERBOARD HOUSE 1840

HAWDON BOUGHT 1848 POSSIBLE SITE OF VERNER'S HOUSE

John Walpole WILLIS JUDGE

S. RICARDO 1850

GAGE 1850 FARM STATION (early 40's)

MAHON 1850 FARM

PORTION 7 Cleveland PLENTY

GEO. PORTER MERCHANT & LANDHOLDER

BY 1841 MANY IMPROVEMENTS

7 POSSIBLE SITE OF PORTER'S HOUSE

DIVIDED INTO 3-4 FARMS

Note: In March 1848 the River Plenty dried up - this had not been known before by the white settlers. GARRYOVEN

Note: George ARDEN described the wooden houses of Melbourne in terms of "verandahs, venetians, and outer coats of fresh light colours" 1840

Note: Houses of the local stone were apparently usually stuccoed and painted or whitewashed e.g. BANYULE

FLATS OF YARRA & PLENTY GENERALLY BEING CLEARED EXCEPT PERHAPS AT WATER'S EDGE

RIVER FLATS CULTIVATED

Potatoes and other vegetables Grains - wheat, oats Orchards

ORANGE GROVE BY RIVER

WARRINGAL VILLAGE RESERVE Layout of 1839

PORTION 4

GEO. PORTER LEASED BUT TO FARMERS

R.G. DURHAM ESTABLISHED

PORTION 3

J. TEGG BYDNEY BOOKSELLER & PUBLISHER RESTDOWN FARM 1849

PASTURE
J.B. BOLLEN remarked that up to 1847 (when he left) "nothing had been tried as to sowing down for pasture... Many of the colonial grasses were merely annuals, and when understocked, shed sufficient seed to keep the pasture fairly replenished every year, but in the home enclosures this annual supply being exhausted, weeds and rubbish establish themselves instead, besides what may have been brought into the district"

LOWER PLENTY ROAD "merely a bush track and at times impassable"

WARRINGAL VILLAGE RESERVE Layout of 1839

RESTDOWN FARM 1849

138 LONSDALE 530a.

NOTE: LAND ON THE HEIDELBERG SIDE OF THE DAREBIN (EXCEPT FOR PORTION 4) WAS BOUGHT BY SPECULATORS FOR THE MOST PART. MOST LOTS APPEAR TO HAVE LAIN IDLE DURING THE EARLY 40'S. TOWARDS THE END OF THE DECADE FARMS BEGAN TO BE DEVELOPED BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY HAD ANY OF THE GLAMOUR OF THE PRESTIGE ESTATES. THUS MUCH OF THE NATURAL VEGETATION PROBABLY STILL REMAINS ALONG THE DAREBIN RIVER THIS PERIOD.

137 Homestead at creek near Dundas Street by 1843 PENDER 256a. FARM

130 S.J. BROWN 258a. 7 GRAZING

Jas. DONALDSON 1850-

129 BRODIE 258a. DAREBIN

D & C McLAREN FARM 1848-mid 50's

122 BRODIE 284a.

JIKA JIKA (parish)

ICHARD HOWITT, STRUGGLING (UNSUCCESSFULLY) ON HIS ALPHINGTON FARM SAW DAILY IN THE ROAD "CARRIAGES OPEN & CLOSED, FILLED WITH GAY FAMILIES OF THE WEALTHY SETTLERS LOCATED ON THE RICH BANKS OF THE RIVER YARRA... GENTLEMEN AND LADIES TOO, WE SAW VERNORS ON HORSEBACK... THERE WAS A PERPETUAL LEAM OF RICH BEAVERS, OSTRICH PLUMES, VEILS TREMBLING IN THE AIR, AND PARASOLS SHOWING THEIR RICH SILKINESS TO THE SUN... THE HORSES, FLEET AND BEAUTIFUL COURSERS THEY WERE, AND THE SIGHT OF THEM DID OUR HEARTS GOOD." 1845

Lucerne J & E BROWN T. WILLS There was both a stone & a weatherboard house in 1841 (census). Later the property developed into "a handsome dwelling with pillared front and apple balconies, and terraces sweeping down through a delightful garden" SUTHERLAND 1888

PERRY EARLY 40'S FULHAM GRANGE R. HOWITT FARM

Chas. ROEMER SYDNEY MERCHANT FARMED BY ARTHUR

sowing down for pasture. Many of the colonial grasses were merely annuals, and when understocked, shed sufficient seed to keep the pasture fairly replenished every year, but in the home enclosures this annual supply being exhausted, weeds and rubbish establish themselves instead, besides what may have been brought into the district by dirty cows from neighbouring colonies." c.1877

have done most of the work at this time. Sheep are not often mentioned.

WARRINGAL VILLAGE RESERVE Layout of 1839

Settlement did not begin until 1845

"You can hardly call Heidelberg a village because it is so scattered, but there is a butcher, baker, a wheelwright, blacksmith, and a few other people of the same description..." Mrs. PERRY 1848

S. RICARDO 1850

GAGE 1850

FARM STATION (early 40's)

"The Anglican clergyman at Heidelberg lives in a pretty weatherboard cottage seated on an eminence. From the broad verandah which surrounds the house is a charming view of the village green, and of the half built church on a little hill in the midst. The course of the river with its bright waters can be traced by the brilliant golden blossoms of the Mimosa, which adorn the precipitous and overhanging banks. It looks like a gigantic golden serpent stretching its sinuous length on a brilliant greenward." Rev. J.D. MEREATHER 1850

PLENTY (early local name)

BULLEEN (parish) Bulleen was known as Heidelberg as well as Plenty

MCKINLEY FARM 1850

UNWIN'S SURVEY - CARLTON ESTATE. Most land was being farmed by 1844 but there were still "savvies" (some of whom would probably also have been farmers). Much land was let in small farms on short leases. In '50's many tenants, although quite well off, lived in huts of bark on mud without floors or ceilings.

PRODUCE: Hay, potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, butter, eggs Wood

BALBINNEY FARM 1850

View to the AUSTRALIAN ALPS "the bold and romantic highland of olden days" 1839

DUNCAN 1850 PURCHASED FARM

UNWIN'S SURVEY

PORTION 1

PORTION 2

Leighton 363a. BOLDEN BROS. KEELBUNDOORA (parish)

2 PARTS 2 PARTS 105a.

1840-1 Northern section of Chelsworth post & rail fence, over 100 a. cleared & cultivated - oats, wheat, potatoes, onions, stockyards, huts, stables, fowl houses & well.

(TO CLEAR & CULTIVATE AN AREA AWAY FROM THE RIVER FLATS WAS APPARENTLY UNUSUAL AT THIS TIME)

S.J. BROWN TRADING & PASTORAL INTERESTS

The house at Hartlands had a "large and pretty drawing room". It stood in a lovely garden with an orangery on one side, many of the trees in which had been raised from pipe by Mr. Brown, and afterwards grafted. Beautiful white cedars surrounded the flower garden... The scenery about the Lake of Constance in Switzerland, near Mammory is very like the Australian Heidelberg. Mrs. PERRY 1848

The old vineyard at Charterisville was said to have been built from over 150 whale ribs - a gift from Edward HENTY - placed to form an arched way, covered by vines. Mr. McARTHUR had "a fancy farm, and the finest garden I had seen in the province" J.D. LANG 1847

Charterisville 84a. BANKER D.C. McARTHUR Stone house (ultimately, but not in 1841) & 2 timber cottages

Waverley 84a. Wm. W. DARKE By the end of 1839 said to be all fenced, most of land cleared & many acres under crops. Weatherboard house; good yards.

Chelsworth 532a

"the pleasant and beautiful property of Capt. G.B. SMYTH". Former army officer with land and business interests. 1840 Leased southern section below the road as a farm to Jas. ARCHER. 1842 SMYTH came to live at CHELSWORTH and developed a fine estate. 1843 Sold to H. & P. Stevenson, pastoral interests.

STUD SHORTHORNS 1842- HORSES 1842

CHELSWORTH Timber section of existing building may have been built in this period.

NOT A GREAT DEAL OF THE LAND ALONG THE YARRA AT IVANHOE WAS UNDER CULTIVATION AT THIS TIME

H.S. WILLS 1845

City of Kew

"extensive woodland and lovely hill and dale" 1839

CULTIVATED G. ANNAND 1845 LEASED TO MR. WADE WHO MADE A MODEL FARM

OSWIN 1845

OSWIN 1845

BEFORE LAND SOLD SQUATTERS BALFOUR & WALKER HUTS BUSH FENCE CULTIVATION (Ran 600 head of cattle and cultivated 100a. land)

City of Camberwell

ELGAR'S SURVEY

PLENTY (early local name)

BOROONDARA (parish)



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



HISTORICAL MAPS: MAP B "The distinctly aristocratic locality" 1838-1851

Boundaries of portions Reserved land Roads, existing or proposed (Roads, even when "made", were extremely rough) Dwelling, but not necessarily that shape or alignment. NOTE: River course is the modern one. Note: Land Transactions- dates are often only approximate, surveys were primitive and different acreages were given for the same property.

1 2 3 Kilometres

PART III - MAP C: 1851-1863.

THE GARDEN OF THE COLONY"¹

Part II ended in 1851 because that was the year the gold rushes began and so marked the beginning of a period of rapid and important change for the Heidelberg district. This section ends on the eve of the great flood of December, 1863. This ending is perforce somewhat artificial, and the period is in itself not all of a piece. The first part of the 50's was a boom time; by the late 1850's the economy was in decline, coinciding with the beginning of a long stretch of bad seasons and disasters. The flood of December, 1863 was only one of several, although the worst in the 60's and a very bad one for the Yarra valley.² Thus the next great change in the riverlands cannot be traced back to one grand event, like the gold rushes, but to a whole series, which by no means ended with the flood of December, 1863. But the flood of December, 1863 was a major flood. It was also particularly horrible in its effects on the landscape and appears to have had a very strong psychological effect on Heidelberg's people, converting many of them to a new way of thinking about how their land should be used (although the conversion had been prepared for by earlier events). Up to 1864 the landscape still looked much as it had done during the boom period of the gold rushes: it changed rapidly from 1864 onwards.

The effects of the gold rushes on Heidelberg's society.

Men left for the gold fields from Heidelberg, as from everywhere else, but Heidelberg had its own gold in the fruits of its soil, a large proportion of which grew on the riverlands. As this was realised population increased at Heidelberg, growing swiftly until 1856, after which it stabilised. This population growth would have been most marked in the village of Warringal, in the emergence of Little Heidelberg (Ivanhoe) and in the Ivanhoe area. (See Map). There are, unfortunately, few accurate figures for the period.³

In Ivanhoe new small farms were set up and the Farrells (a family which was to have long associations with Heidelberg)⁴ established themselves farther north on the Darebin. (See Map). At the same time many of the prestige estates changed greatly. Several owners returned "home" and lands were leased out to tenant farmers, even when the owners stayed in Australia. A section of Banyule and of Hartlands was subdivided and sold. Charterisville, Viewbank and Woodside remained the only properties where the owners still resided and managed the land themselves.⁵

The estates prospered in the boom time. The gardens of their houses were growing so that they would have been even more dominant within their local landscapes. At Banyule, two lodges added⁶ a fitting ceremoniousness to the approach. But the aristocratic glamour of the district had ebbed: St. Kilda, Toorak and South Yarra were now the premier suburbs of Melbourne.⁷

At Fairy Hills and Rockbeare (and possibly on Hordern's land, although that may have been developed earlier) new prestige estates emerged.⁸ But all in all, as Garden pointed out, the Heidelberg gentlemen had lost much of their importance in the swelling population of villagers and small farmers.⁹

If the latter got in early, Heidelberg was admirably suited - or was for some years - for a good living to be made by feeding the rapidly increasing mouths (both human and animal) in the Victoria of the gold rushes. In 1856, the Argus commented that Heidelberg "is now one of the finest agricultural districts in the County of Bourke". Land was cultivated at different places along the Yarra, but the activity had centred on Heidelberg some years before.¹⁰ Heidelberg, however, included Bulleen as well at this period, and it is not always clear whether generalisations made by the Argus writer always applied to both Bulleen and Heidelberg proper.

The character of the riverlands.

Extent of cultivation.

At first the gold rushes disorganised agriculture as men deserted it to become miners. But after this initial stage, cultivation extended with great rapidity, in contrast with the gradual progress of the 1840's. In 1855 an Argus writer was told by locals that around Ivanhoe, near the Yarra, ten times more land was under cultivation than the year before. In Heidelberg (and Bulleen) cultivation had increased fourfold.¹¹ This great increase was confirmed by an official reporter, who also confirmed that there was still much land idle, or used only for grazing, land, he wrote, which was owned by capitalists who occasionally fenced it but did little else.¹²

It was the valley bottoms and slopes along the Yarra which had been brought into cultivation.¹³ Just how much land along the Darebin and Plenty was under crop we do not know. But it is clear that it was the alluvial flats which were valued along the Yarra and that higher land was not. James Graham, agent for Hawdon of Banyule, found this. "Fanning", he reported on 22 February, 1862, "would take the lower part at a rental, but would not take the upper part, he says, as a gift".¹⁴

The size of the farms.

Farms could be small: Banyule was divided into six, with farmers being given a portion of the desirable river flats and having to take, whether they liked it or not, a portion of the higher lands. Where farms were envisaged as being family farms, the small size would have seemed appropriate. Market gardening, of course, required much labour, but so too did cereal crops at this period, for cereal growing was not yet mechanised¹⁵ (although it should be added that mechanisation could not have been carried very far on the small farm). Besides this, the small farm, of 100 acres or less, was the norm in England - a norm which, at this period, was naturally looked to here.¹⁶

How far the farmers themselves at Heidelberg were happy with this situation is not known - where they were tenants they certainly had little choice. The map does show, however, that Thomas Farrell managed to acquire quite a large holding, suggesting perhaps that the small farmer would enlarge his farm if he could.

Cereal crops

Wheat, as we have seen, was a major crop in the Heidelberg district in the 1840's, taking up a little more than half the acreage under the plough, if the early statistics can be trusted.¹⁷ Wheat growing was profitable for a time during the gold rushes, but the price fell in 1856.¹⁸ Yet farmers in the Port Phillip district persisted in growing it despite its unprofitability. Farmers at Heidelberg may have been more progressive. In 1855, even before the price drop, it was said that only one twentieth of the land in the area was planted with wheat.¹⁹ By 1863 the patchy information we have suggests that while wheat was still grown in some flood prone areas that other crops were far more important, wheat may, however, have been grown more extensively away from the flood plain.²⁰ (See Map for details).

Oaten hay was much more profitable and was certainly a major crop in the district.²¹ Main roads had been improved, creeks and rivers bridged, thus allowing bullocks to be replaced by horses,²² and horses (unlike bullocks) required hay. Hay made from grass was not a success in Victoria, so oats were grown to make it - as in Scotland.²³ Grains could be imported more cheaply than farmers could grow them, while imported hay, being bulky, could not compete well with the local product for the now developing market of metropolitan Melbourne. Oats were also better suited to the climate of Heidelberg than wheat, which was to do much better in the drier inland.

In Heidelberg then, in the 1850's, wheat and oats were grown, with increasing emphasis, most probably, on the latter. Well into the 1850's techniques continued to be simple in the district: the Argus reported in 1856 that there was usually only one ploughing and one harrowing and that crops were neither hoed nor weeded. The age old picture of the sower, broadcasting the grain by hand, was still to be seen on the riverlands.²⁴ Changes in method and the introduction of machinery are described by Lynette Peel in her authoritative "History of the Agriculture of the Port Phillips Region 1835-80."²⁵

Market gardens, orchards and vineyards.

The Argus writer of 31 January 1856 found that growing wheat simply did not pay in the district. He compared the cost with that of producing oats and potatoes and found that the latter was "by far the most profitable crop" of the three. (Heidelberg's potatoes were excellent: when Verner returned to England he decided to have some sent to him there.)²⁶

Vegetables and fruit were very important for Heidelberg.²⁷ In 1852-4 prices had gone up with a vengeance. Bread had become very expensive²⁸ and encouraged wheat growing until the cheap imports began to have their effect, but importers could not supply fresh fruit and vegetables - the latter more than trebled in price.²⁹

Farmers on short leases were not likely to plant expensive orchards (unless, as in the case of that excellent farmer and nurseryman, Peter Fanning, it was written into the lease that they should do so).³⁰ Those who owned land and had established fruit trees must have done very well, and presumably the prospect of high profits encouraged much more planting by owners. The Banyule subdivision on the flats near the village, including Sills Bend, was extensively planted out with fruits at this time. And vegetables of many kinds would have done well on the flats: there must have been many patches of blue-grey-green cabbage. (See map).

The Age was to refer to Heidelberg as "the garden of the colony",³¹ garden being a term which could include orchards as well as market gardens. The poem of 1861, Victoria and her Resources... (See Map also) devoted two verses to the show of garden produce in April that year, indicating, perhaps, the most outstanding triumphs.

...Sweet Banyule on Yarra's banks,
 By FANNING's skill and labor,
 Display'd rich sweets in crowded ranks,
 Of BEAUTY, TASTE and flavor.
 And gems supplied from FULHAM GRANGE,
 The seat of MR. PERRY,
 Demand a cheer, the scene to change,
 'Mid CLARET, PORT and SHERRY.
 And Mr. Waidson's garden too,
 Sent forth its stores inviting,
 Of odour rich, and taste and hue,
 Delicious and delighting.
 The WINE SOME SAY was rich and good,
 But few its flavor tasted,
 Though being in joy, we NEVER should,
 Let precious sweets be wasted.³²

Fulham Grange was at Alphington and some of its trees were planted on the steep bank up from the flats.³³ Such famous orchards, with their many species and multitude of varieties were a very different matter from today's of so few. (The Perrys gave 181 varieties of fruit tree to the Horticultural Society of Victoria).³⁴ Wadson's garden was probably that block owned by Laurence Wadson on the Banyule subdivision. The neglected wine might have been produced on several estates, including Charterisville.³⁵

Dairying

Dairying had already proved most suitable for Heidelberg and district. The gold rushes provided an excellent market for the perishable dairy products, as for fruit and vegetables. At this time, as elsewhere in Victoria, the dairy was especially the province of the women of the farm.³⁶ They were saluted - fulsomely - in Victoria and her Resources ...

The rich product of luscious cream,
 In profusion rare and dainty,
 From Dar'bin Vale to Yarra's stream,
 On to the River Plenty,
 Envinc'd the worth of our rich soil,
 And of the wives and daughters,
 Of our farmers, whose chaste toil,
 Doth grace our plains and waters.³⁷

Animals

In the year ending 31st March, 1857 the Parish of Keelbundora had cattle, quite a lot of pigs, many horses but no sheep. Two years later it could boast of 250 sheep.³⁸

There were "fleecy sheep" at the Heidelberg Show of 24 April, 1861, or so P. O'Brien, the author of "Victoria and her Resources..." tells us.³⁹ They may have been imported from outside the Parish. The district really excelled in its cattle and its horses. For the latter there was now much more demand:

The Steeds of draught and saddle too,
 In symmetry and stature,
 Beneath our sunny skies of blue,
 CAN'T be surpassed in nature.⁴⁰

Fencing and hedging.

The valleys - flats and slopes - of Heidelberg had probably been cut up into small paddocks in the 1830's, where cultivation was undertaken. Certainly, in the 1850's, we can imagine the riverlands as largely cut up into many small areas, for this, Lynnette Peel tells us, was typical of the farming of the gold rushes.⁴¹ The riverlands would have looked, from the air, like so many patchwork quilts.

The gold rushes made post and rail fencing very expensive and wire was being introduced into Victoria by at least 1853 or 1854.⁴² Wire made a fence stronger but post and rail remained the norm - or at any rate, the ideal at Heidelberg for many years.⁴³ This was true elsewhere; much depended on whether suitable timber was readily available,⁴⁴ as it was at Heidelberg, and later in the 1850's labour became cheaper again.⁴⁵ Perhaps sometimes post and rail was combined with wire.⁴⁶ Where farmers were poorer, brush fences were still being used: William Howitt saw some as he travelled from Melbourne to the Plenty Station.⁴⁷

Were the patchwork quilts ornamentally stitched together with hedges at this time? There is no evidence that hedges were planted earlier. Pictures of the district in the 1840's never show them, nor for that matter, are they to be seen in those of the 1850's. Lynnette Peel sees hedge planting as becoming popular int the late 1860's and 1870's.⁴⁸

Yet there are a few tantalising pieces of evidence suggesting that hedges may have been planted in the 1850's at Heidelberg. William Kelly wrote that in the mid 1850's that there was a

good and increasing habit to sow a species of furse called cape broom* along the fence, which grows quickly, forming a thick impenetrable hedge, which affords shade as well as shelter, and is advanced enough to form an excellent and lasting substitute for the timber fence long before the latter gets into a state of decay.⁴⁹

There were practical reasons for hedging: that fences lasted only 10 or 12 years⁵⁰ was one of them. The Argus writer, visiting the district in 1856, wrote that "Not a hedge is to be seen in the whole district, on rented land",⁵¹ which rather suggests that hedges were to be seen on purchased land. But the writer may have been referring to garden rather than field hedges: William Howitt⁵² was struck by the rose briar hedges used around cottage gardens. "Division hedges" were planned for the Horticultural Society of Victoria's gardens⁵³ - gardens which were not purely ornamental, of course - in 1863. But if any hedges were planted at Heidelberg at this time we would not expect them to have been planted where there were tenants on short leases, or poor farmers, but only where there were prosperous independent proprietors. The Council minutes of the early 1860's indicate that the Council did not plant hedges. What was seen as appropriate for the village and environs was "sawn stuff" fencing which was erected along the embankment at the racecourse and on the embankment leading to Heidelberg bridge.⁵⁴ (It was painted - or re-painted?- at a later stage).⁵⁵ This sort of fencing is visible in a picture of St. John's and its surrounds taken in the 1870's.⁵⁶ (Hedging will be discussed again in Part III).

Buildings in the riverlands

Houses must have been found or built for the new tenant farmers and owner farmers. Many of these must have been on the flats or low on the sides of the valley, for they were flooded in the December, 1863 flood.⁵⁷

Some would have been pioneers' houses. Verner's, for example, was used for a long time by Banyule tenants, including Peter Fanning. (Was it 'Banyarra'?)⁵⁸ Few farmers' houses would have been so elegant. The Argus of 1856 described houses on the leased land of Bulleen:

Many of the tenements are still of the rudest and most primitive description imaginable, although the occupants are generally in good circumstances. Huts of bark or mud, without floors or ceilings (sheets of bark on the roof sufficing for the latter, and the earth for

* *Genista monspessulana*. Trifoliate leaves and bright yellow pea flowers in spring.

the former)... The out-buildings also are of the roughest construction in many of these leased farms, and they present no appearance of the cleanliness and comforts attached to most English homesteads...⁵⁹

Short leases were the reason for these poor buildings, where tenants had to build for themselves.⁶⁰ At Banyule surviving leases show that houses and farm buildings were provided by Hawdon⁶¹ and they were probably of a better class. But they were not always healthy. Banyule tenant J. Brown lived in a house in the garden near the river (Archibald Thom's?) and several of his children apparently died as a result of the damp, low-lying situation.⁶²

Most houses, whether primitive (there were still people living under canvas roofs in 1861)⁶³ or better built and equipped would have been simple like Thomas Farrell's on the Darebin⁶⁴ and the Duncans' on the Yarra at Bulleen,⁶⁵ the cotttage nestling below Banyule⁶⁶ or the one on a hill behind Heidelberg, sketched by von Guerard.⁶⁷ They would usually have been made of timber and bark, standing in a fenced enclosure - perhaps with sweet briar hedge⁶⁸ and orchard.⁶⁹ In 1862, it was reported, every cottager had beehives for honey and mead.⁷⁰ Perhaps there was an ornamental garden or an attempt at one. (William Howitt described some attempts he saw as "rampant crops of weeds, out of which gigantic crimson stocks lift their heads conspicuously".)⁷¹ At a little distance there would be the rough farm buildings and haystacks, although some farmers had the bad habit of stacking hay and corn very close to the house, or even abutting it.⁷² Dairies might have been closer to the water in some cases: Peter Fanning built his in the bank of the Yarra,⁷³ so that the milk might be kept as cool as possible.

There was probably considerable variation in the style and comfort in which farmers lived. William Howitt saw much that was rough on his way to Heidelberg,⁷⁴ and Bulleen was certainly primitive in many ways, but the well-established farmers as well as those above them socially did better:

market, flower and villa gardens exhibit a very favourable aspect both in numbers and the excellent taste displayed; that attention to minor matters, which in the previous state of the Colony was perhaps impracticable, is now generally regarded.⁷⁵

. . .

The landscape of the 1850's differed from that of the 1840's in degree rather than in character. Cultivation had extended and there were more orchards and market

gardens. More cottages, with their gardens and outbuildings, appeared on the riverlands. Although, in many places, the landscape would have had a raw pioneer aspect, in others it was becoming more settled, and, as it did so, more English - like other Victorian places.

They are English houses, English enclosures that you see; English farms, English gardens, English cattle and horses, English fowls about the yards, English flowers and plants carefully cultivated.⁷⁶

"English" plants, as they matured, had more impact on the landscape. Willows thickened in places along the rivers⁷⁷ and the Bakewells' carefully designed planting on the Plenty clothed the bank they had denuded of its original native flora.⁷⁸

There was still a contrast with the primeval landscape, but it was not as strong as it had been in the 1840's. The hills of Heidelberg still had many native trees, although they were being gradually cut for building materials and firewood.⁷⁹ But the view to the east from Warringal was still magnificent, still essentially wild:

The scene appeared one dense forest, excepting in our vicinity where we saw some natural glades less thickly wooded, or farms or green paddocks cleared of timber...⁸⁰

There was, in fact, more settlement and activity than there appeared to be in the east, but Heidelberg must still have seemed to be growing up on the edge of the Australian wilderness.

Services, utilities and amenities.

During the early 1850's Warringal grew rapidly, becoming much more like a true village⁸¹ instead of a mere scattering of houses. It lost none of its Englishness but must rather have gained more with its years. Its cricket ground down near the river was regarded as one of the best in Victoria.⁸² Heidelberg's roads and bridges had to take greatly increased traffic with the gold rushes, but it was not until the 1860's that much action appears to have been taken to improve the scanty network of roads and river crossings. The beautiful new bridges of that time, however, were to endure very well. The Council was also active in getting drains and culverts made and some of these affected the riverlands, like the "drain by Mark Sill's garden"⁸⁴ (Sill's bend). Drains were probably usually "bush drains",⁸⁵ lined with ti-tree with culverts and shoots (chutes) to the river made of red gum, like that constructed at Banyule in 1865.⁸⁶

Thus Heidelberg, although it grew, and grew more settled, still remained a rural place. It was not to share at this time in the Yan Yean water piped to other Melbourne suburbs, but still relied on its streams for its water supply.

The conditions and techniques of farming.

Heidelberg continued to look rich and smiling into the 1860's but well before then there were signs that its prosperity was not as strongly based as it appeared.

Some of this weakness came from the poor land management of many farmers. In 1862 James Graham, agent for Banyule, was writing bluntly to Joseph Hawdon that the land simply did not yield what it had once done.⁸⁷ Even earlier, in 1855, it was reported that the valuable river flat farmed by Duncan at Bulleen was impoverished and overrun with sorrel.⁸⁸ These were not isolated instances either in the Heidelberg district or in other cropping districts: cultivated soil generally was being exhausted.⁸⁹

Duncan had sown no less than ten successive crops of wheat on his land.⁹⁰ Proper rotation of crops was not often used: instead, wheat, oats and potatoes were grown on the same ground year after year, according to what was thought likely to be most profitable.⁹¹ Not only was there little rotation but hardly any fallow was allowed.⁹² The tenant farmers cannot altogether be blamed for these bad practices, because they were trapped by high rents. In 1862 Graham told Hawdon that these were too high, even in good seasons, and that some tenants would be struggling to survive even if they paid none. They certainly could not afford to improve their land.⁹³

Things had been easier earlier and the Collector of Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for the year ending 31st March, 1857 had observed that management was improving in the area: land was being drained and guano and other manures were being used.⁹⁴ The Argus in 1856 had affirmed that guano had recently come into use.⁹⁵ Before this time, then, the land's fertility had presumably not been replenished in many parts of Heidelberg: crop after crop had been removed without manuring. At that prosperous time farmers could have better afforded to manure than they could by the 1860's. Why didn't they use fertilizers? Stable manure was scarce and expensive and the farms were too small to carry the stock to do the job. Besides this there was a myth referred to earlier. The Argus of 1855 remarked that "the old creed... placed faith upon the inexhaustible properties of the soil".⁹⁶ J.H. Kerr wrote that the land along the Yarra was "fertilised" by the river:⁹⁷ the Yarra was initially

seen, perhaps, as the Nile of Victoria. But by the mid-fifties this view was no longer possible. Fertilizers were clearly necessary by then and later, yet, according to George Bennett of Lucerne, Collector for East Burke and Evelyn, in 1863 the farmers were using no fertilizers.⁹⁸ Perhaps they simply could not afford to do so by then, for, as we shall see, their situation had greatly deteriorated.

Throughout the period landlords had demanded high rents and had granted only short leases: both things encouraging the tenant to take and run. Leases principally stipulated that a certain amount of land should be cleared (if this had not been done already) but did not demand improvements, manuring or rotation of crops⁹⁹ (although one lease for Banyule did specify "sufficient manuring".)¹⁰⁰ If an experienced farmer like Duncan, who owned the land he worked, could use it as badly as he did, it was absolutely necessary that leases should have been more rigorous, as well as longer, and rents fairer to tenants.

Farmers (if not landlords) may have been beginning to learn some valuable lessons about their environment, but this learning was taking place just as factors outside their control were making it very hard for them to benefit from it.

Decline and disasters.

Heidelberg's truly golden era had ended by 1857 at the latest, when it was clear that Victoria's economy was in decline. Increase in food production and improved transport helped bring about a steady fall in food prices.¹⁰¹ Heidelberg had lost the advantage it had had as one of the earliest farming areas. Property values had dropped by 1859: Hawdon was forced to give up his idea of selling Banyule in that year.¹⁰² In July 1863 Graham wrote to tell him that property was "very low in value at present".¹⁰³

Meanwhile, nature had taken a hand. 1858-9 saw a drought. In April 1861 there was a flood, which was followed by a dry winter and summer. The next winter (1862) was long, wet and cold, and was succeeded by a hot dry summer once again. During these years Graham's reports (and appeals) to Hawdon showed how hard the small farmer's lot was at this time. Some had had enough:

Brown who is the best farmer on your Estate laid out a good deal of money this year, in the hope of getting a good crop off, but the bad season has caused him a heavy loss - His time is up, and he is now selling off everything, intending to return to England - He cannot pay the rent, till his effects are sold.¹⁰⁴

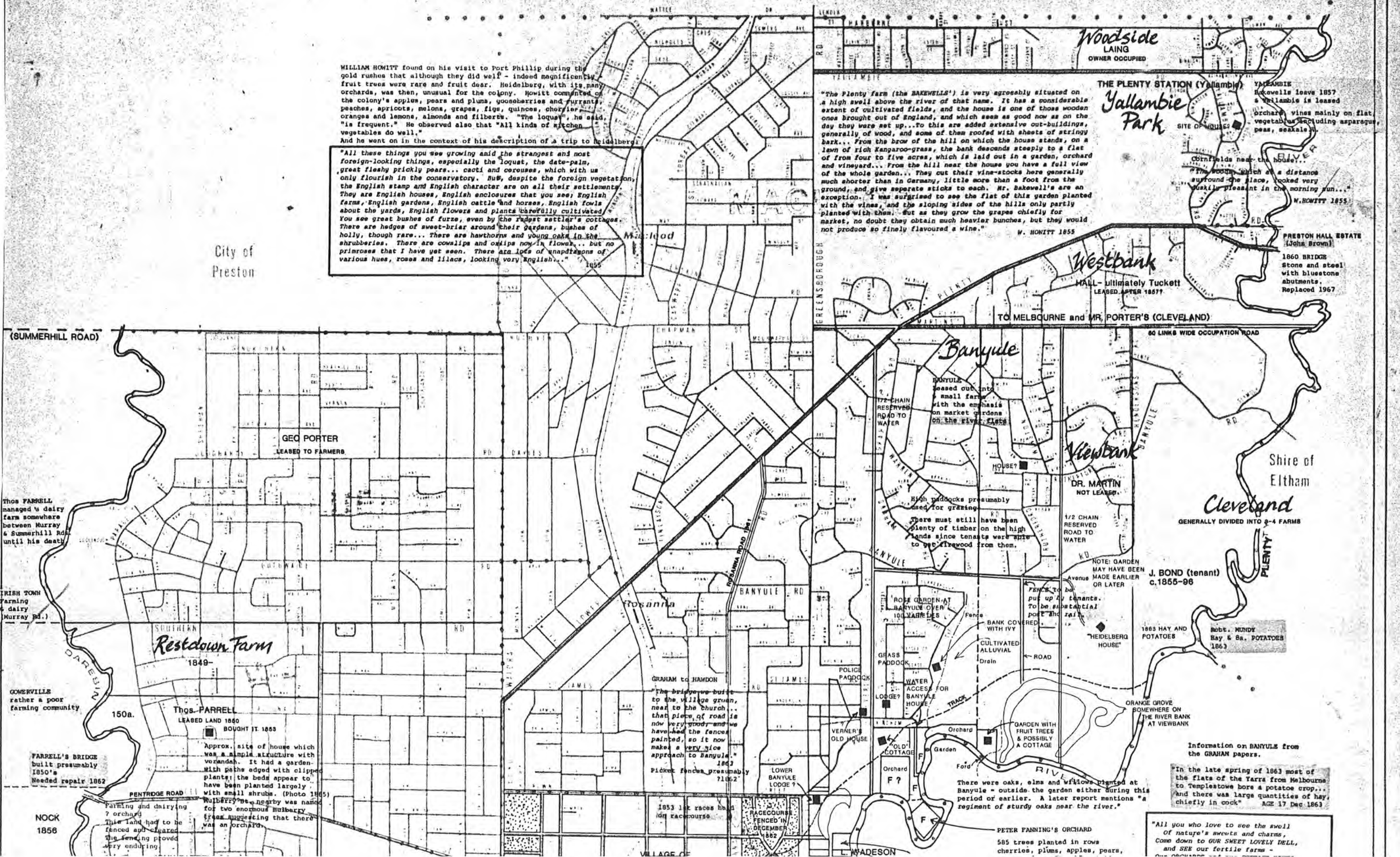
According to the Collector for South Bourke the summer of 1862-3 completely wiped out some crops. Even the flats, usually drought proof, were not immune. Sidney Ricardo (see map) did better than most (although not as well as usual) because he irrigated. (He had a steam engine for the work.) Mr. Oswin (see map) let all his land lie fallow. Farmers turned to dairy produce,¹⁰⁵ pigs and honey (the early 60's fortunately saw high egg and butter prices) but many went off to the diggings.¹⁰⁶

The flood of April 1861 must have done a fair amount of damage to some farmers,¹⁰⁷ but in October, 1863, there was a very damaging flood. At Banyule Jeffreys was flooded out and the water got very close to the lower lodge where the Quayles lived. Graham wrote to Hawdon that

Every tenant has lost more or less, but the great damage has been in the bend, where those beautiful fruit trees, that Fanning was so proud of, and used to take everyone to look at are lying all on the ground, covered with logs and debris of every description brought down by the flood... a more deplorable, disheartening sight cannot be imagined -... Fortunately Fanning had the bend all laid down in grass, which saved the top-soil. Here and there there are some land slips but not so bad as on the opposite side of the river. Fanning lost some very fine potatoes, and he had his dairy all but swept away, which he had built in the bank of the river - One of the fine willows has been smashed up and carried away - Some of the farmers higher up the river and on the Plenty have suffered serious loss - Munday I hear has lost in potatoes alone, upwards of 50 tons. The water is still all over the flats, and we can't get out at all by conveyance.¹⁰⁸

It was bad, but there was much worse to come.

Shire of Diamond Valley



WILLIAM HOWITT found on his visit to Port Phillip during the gold rushes that although they did well - indeed magnificently fruit trees were rare and fruit dear. Heidelberg, with its many orchards, was then, unusual for the colony. Howitt commented of the colony's apples, pears and plums, gooseberries and currants, peaches, apricots, melons, grapes, figs, quinces, cherries, oranges and lemons, almonds and filberts. "The loquat", he said, "is frequent." He observed also that "All kinds of kitchen vegetables do well." And he went on in the context of his description of a trip to Heidelberg:

"All these things you see growing amid the strangest and most foreign-looking things, especially the loquat, the date-palm, great fleshy prickly pears... cacti and cecropias, which with us only flourish in the conservatory. But, despite the foreign vegetation, the English stamp and English character are on all their settlements. They are English houses, English enclosures that you see; English farms, English gardens, English cattle and horses, English fowls about the yards, English flowers and plants carefully cultivated. You see great bushes of furze, even by the rudest settler's cottages. There are hedges of sweet-briar around their gardens, bushes of holly, though rare... There are hawthorns and young oaks in the shrubberies. There are cowslips and oxlips now in flower... but no primroses that I have yet seen. There are lots of unadapted plants of various hues, roses and lilacs, looking very English..."

"The Plenty farm (the BAKEWELLS) is very agreeably situated on a high swell above the river of that name. It has a considerable extent of cultivated fields, and the house is one of those wooden ones brought out of England, and which seem as good now as the day they were set up... To this are added extensive out-buildings, generally of wood, and some of them roofed with sheets of stringy bark... From the brow of the hill on which the house stands, on a lawn of rich Kangaroo-grass, the bank descends steeply to a flat of from four to five acres, which is laid out in a garden, orchard and vineyard... From the hill near the house you have a full view of the whole garden... They cut their vine-stocks here generally much shorter than in Germany, little more than a foot from the ground, and give separate sticks to each. Mr. Bakewell's are an exception. I was surprised to see the flat of this garden planted with the vines, and the sloping sides of the hills only partly planted with them. But as they grow the grapes chiefly for market, no doubt they obtain much heavier bunches, but they would not produce so finely flavoured a wine."

YALAMBIE
Bakewells leave 1857
& Yalambie is leased
orchard, vines mainly on flat,
vegetables including asparagus,
peas, sea-kale, etc.
Cornfields near the house...
The woods, which at a distance
surround the place, looked very
pleasant in the morning sun...
W. HOWITT 1855

PRESTON HALL ESTATE
(John Brown)
1860 BRIDGE
Stone and steel
with bluestone
abutments.
Replaced 1967

Thos FARRELL
managed a dairy
farm somewhere
between Murray
& Summerhill Rd.
until his death

IRISH TOWN
Farming dairy
(Murray Rd.)

GOVERVILLE
rather a poor
farming community

FARRELL'S BRIDGE
built presumably
1850's
Needed repair 1862

NOCK
1856

Restdown Farm
1849-

Thos. FARRELL
LEASED LAND 1850
BOUGHT IT 1855

Approx. site of house which
was a simple structure with
verandah. It had a garden
with paths edged with clipped
plants; the beds appear to
have been planted largely
with small shrubs. (Photo 1865)
Mulberry tree nearby was named
for two enormous mulberry
trees suggesting that there
was an orchard.

GRAHAM to HAWDON
"The bridge we built
to the village green,
near to the church...
that piece of road is
now very good, and we
have had the fences
painted, so it now
makes a very nice
approach to Banyule."
1863
Picket fences presumably
71862

1853 lot races held
in racecourse

BANYULE
leased out into
small farms
with the emphasis
on market gardens
on the river flats

High paddocks presumably
used for grazing
There must still have been
plenty of timber
on the high
lands since tenants were able
to use firewood from them.

ROSE GARDEN AT
BANYULE OVER
100 YARDS

WATER
ACCES FOR
BANYULE
HOUSE

ORCHARD
F?

PETER FANNING'S ORCHARD
585 trees planted in rows
cherries, plums, apples, pears,

Westbank
HALL - ultimately Tuckett
LEASED AFTER 1857?

Viewbank
DR. MARTIN
NOT LEASED

NOTE: GARDEN
MAY HAVE BEEN
MADE EARLIER
OR LATER

J. BOND (tenant)
c.1855-98

1865 HAY AND
POTATOES
Robt. MURDY
Hay & Pt. POTATOES
1863

ORANGE GROVE
SOMEWHERE ON
THE RIVER BANK
AT VIEWBANK

Information on BANYULE from
the GRAHAM papers.

"In the late spring of 1863 most of
the flats of the Yarra from Melbourne
to Templestowe bore a potatoe crop...
and there was large quantities of hay,
chiefly in cock" AGE 17 Dec 1863

"All you who love to see the swell
of nature's sweets and charms,
Come down to OUR SWEET LOVELY DELL,
and SEE our fertile farms -

NOCK
1856

DAREBIN-ON-CREEK
Hay, dairying,
pigs, nurseries,
brickmaking

JOHN FARRELL 1853
FARMING & DAIRYING?

Thos. FARRELL & Partner 1851 -

Jas. DONALDSON 1850

GRAZING - ORCHARD?

1853 SUBDIVISION INTO 112 BLOCKS

AROUND 10 a. EACH

VARIOUS PURCHASERS

LIVINGSTON & C. McLAREN

FARM - TO MID 50'S
SUBDIVISION MID 50'S

The ARGUS of 21st. Nov. 1855 reported that around Ivanhoe and the adjacent Yarra banks there was 10 times a greater area under cultivation than the previous year, although much land still lay idle. There was comparatively little wheat... Most of the farms were leased.

City of
Northcote

J.S. ADAMS
1858-60
Developing farm
and garden

FORD

ORCHARDS
VINEYARDS

WINE

ROKBEARE

DAREBIN

35a.

Hordern Estate

HOUSE BY 1853

DAREBIN BRIDGE HOTEL c.1849-4

55a.

Fairy Hills

FRANCIS CLARK 1856-1896

WOODEN BRIDGE 1856

DIVERS INTERESTS

SITE OF 'Fairy Hills' HOUSE?

BOUGHT BY STEVENSON & CHELSWORTH 1858

CHAS. PAYNE 1853-1890'S

Ivanhoe

COTTAGE WITHOUT VERANDAH BY 1849 - SIMILAR TO north of Ivanhoe (Sherwood) House

R.W. SMITH 1850'S dairying and fruit growing at LUCERNE

"a handsome building (of stone - 2 storeyed) with pillared front and ample balconies, and terraces sweeping down through a delightful garden"

SUTHERLAND 1856

PERRY'S PULHAM GRANGE had at least 181 varieties of fruit trees.

WESTGARTH 1857

THE LEADER 12/5/1900 19/5/1900

The flood of December 1863 destroyed at Kew: 10 1/2 a. gardens (vegs. & fruit?) 271 a. potatoes 47 a. oats 25 a. wheat 10 a. mangel-wurzels

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PERRY'S PULHAM GRANGE had at least 181 varieties of fruit trees.

WESTGARTH 1857

THE LEADER 12/5/1900 19/5/1900

WESTGARTH in 1857 noted "an indolent and unskilful practice of keeping the crops still growing in the midst of ploughed fields. This is less the practice here now than it was several years ago, when the stubs of the felled timber caused their stiff winds among the waving crops". See TEXT.

Leighton

Divided and leased out in 3 farms from end of 1850's

Eaglemont

Mt. Eagle was planted with many trees "mainly cedars, hoop pines, bunja pines, cypress and eucalyptus pines" NUNAN

DEVELOPED 1854

wooden house supposed to be temporary. Avenue of Cupressus lambertiana approached it from Maltravers Road

There were vines at the landing place on the river

There were vines at the landing place on the river

There were vines at the landing place on the river

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There were vines at the landing place on the river

There were vines at the landing place on the river

Hartlands

Crops similar to those at LEIGHTON?

There were vines at the landing place on the river

There were vines at the landing place on the river

There were vines at the landing place on the river

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There were vines at the landing place on the river



Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

HISTORICAL MAPS: MAP C

The Garden of the Colony
1851-1863

- Reserved land
- Roads, existing or proposed
- Dwelling, but not necessarily that shape or alignment and not to scale
- Peter Fanning's holdings at Banyule under lease from G. 1857

PART IV - MAP D. DECEMBER 1863-1901.

"SLEEPY HOLLOW" AND THE "SLEEPING BEAUTY"1. THE GREAT REVERSAL.

The storm and flood of December, 1863 were devastating.¹ Many who lived on the flats were left with nothing: houses, furniture, even clothes ruined, crops completely destroyed, fences and farm buildings swept away.² The ripening fruit on trees on the flats were stripped by water but those on the hillsides were stripped by wind.³ Trees themselves were sometimes washed away: four hundred of Fanning's young trees at the bend on Banyule went.⁴ Fanning "had not a farthing in the world in cash"⁵ and there must have been many like him, for the succession of bad years would have drained away any savings from earlier, more prosperous times. The tenants at Banyule "have been obliged to become recipients of charity", Graham wrote to Hawdon.⁶ Most of Banyule's tenants were to give up and leave⁷ and many other farmers in the district were no doubt also to do so.⁸ Only farmers on the Plenty were spared: the flood of October had been worse for them.⁹

Neither the weather nor anything else picked up. In July, 1864 there was another serious flood,¹⁰ just at the point when repairs to buildings and fencing were being completed, and crops had been put in - where they were planted.¹¹ The rest of the winter was very wet.¹² In November there was another flood: there had been "four disastrous floods within twelve months", as Graham observed. He pointed to an important psychological effect:

a flood once in seven years was about the calculation formerly, but now one is in terror with them, at all seasons of the year.¹³

The summer and winter that followed were very dry, and caterpillars, blight and rust attacked what crops there were.¹⁴

The destructive effects of the series of floods included the growth of particularly pernicious weeds: docks, sorrel and reeds, but worst of all the seven foot high red shank (a Polygonum), which had to be scythed by hand¹⁵ (time consuming and costly). Another effect was on the soil. George Bennett reported that

the deposit left by the floods, instead of being, as formerly, decayed vegetable matter washed down from the banks of the river, and acting as an enriching and fertilising top-dressing to the

soil, was an adhesive clayish substance (probably from the cuttings that have been made by miners at Anderson's Creek and other diggings for the purpose of altering the course of the river), and which seemed to have a deleterious and impoverishing effect on the land, which turned up in dead lumps that would not break up into workable soil for many months. Potatoes planted in November never grew, and mangel-wurzel and other crops, sown in December and January, did not come up until the month of May.¹⁶

Bad seasons and floods were not the only causes of the depression in farming at this time. As mentioned in Part III, prices for what produce was wrested from the land were low. And there was a more serious and long term cause operating: the exhaustion of the soil. In Bourke there was, from 1864 on, a great reduction in cropping, not just on flood prone land but on all land.¹⁷ Graham described the reversal in March, 1864, with special reference to the riverlands.

Agriculture is now paying no one now by itself, and farmers are turning their attention to grazing, rearing of poultry, pigs ... and dairying - good grasslands are therefore more valuable than agricultural lands - you cannot expect to get high rents now for these flats as independent of the alarm there is now about floods, there is also the fact that these lands are very much worked out, and that there is abundance of fine rich virgin land continually being opened up by the Railways, and to be had at moderate rents.¹⁸

Thus it might be asked just how important the floods were in causing the general cessation of cropping along the Yarra and the change-over to pasture which occurs at this time.

Undoubtedly the unprofitability of crops and, more fundamentally, the impoverishment of the soil must in themselves have forced farmers to rethink their position sooner or later, whether or not the floods affected them. Perhaps if the floods had not happened they would still have turned to raising livestock and dairying at about this time. Another option would have been to restore soil fertility and carry on in the old way, although this would have been expensive. If this option was considered the floods must have put paid to it and it does seem as if that of December, 1863 created a turning point.

It caused great psychological shock to those affected and it was immediately afterwards that the change started to take place. Not all, of course, immediately admitted defeat. Fanning, for example, went doggedly

on, only to lose out yet again to the next flood.¹⁹ Sill's orchard, and Charterisville's, survived into this century, and Rockbeare's also, despite the bad damage it suffered in December, 1863.²⁰ But the landscape of the riverlands was radically changed - at least along the Yarra.

Dairying.

More land was needed to support a farmer and family engaged in dairying than one which grew grain and vegetables (particularly as far fewer cows could be carried than can be today).²¹ At Banyule 6 farms, therefore, became 3²² and this kind of alteration may have happened elsewhere, although some farms were probably already large enough for dairying. Heidelberg was close to the growing Melbourne market, and dairying was far more suitable than grain growing or sheep grazing for the Heidelberg district, but it was not until well into this century that the art of dairying in the Australian environment was to be well understood.²³ One problem was that of the pasture itself. Native pasture was low yielding²⁴ and to be maintained needed to be understocked, and as the Rev. Mr. Bolden remarked, when it was not, "weeds and rubbish" soon moved in.²⁵ Even at the end of the 1940's there was still three times as much native as improved pasture in Victoria,²⁶ so it is not surprising that most of the land turned to pasture in the 1860's in the Heidelberg district was of native grasses. This was lamented by George Bennett, who commented in 1865

...if the land ... withdrawn from the cultivation of cereals were properly prepared and laid down in permanent artificial grasses, the change would probably be profitable to the parties themselves and beneficial generally; but unfortunately, from ignorance, want of capital, or from the uncertain tenure under which many tenants hold their land, the extent laid down with artificial grasses is comparatively limited - the greater part is left in a great measure unproductive, particularly in such a dry season as this, so unfavourable to native grasses.²⁷

Peter Fanning, always progressive, was prepared to sow portion of Banyule above the flood zone with English grasses, but (sensibly enough) only if he were given a 5 year lease.²⁸ At some stage Banyule was sown down with English grasses, so perhaps Fanning's suggestion was agreed to.²⁹ Thus the pasture lands were not as productive as they came to be in recent times but they were much richer floristically. There must have been many paddocks where wild flowers as well as many imported weeds bloomed in season. Streeton's "Spring

Heidelberg" shows the green water meadows on the Yarra, studded with delightful blossoms amongst the grasses.³⁰

All was not idyllic, however. The life was hard in many ways, the work labour-intensive until inventions gradually came into use, and it must have been very hard to maintain standards of hygiene. Pleasingly rural the dairies and sheds on the river flats may have looked, but Dr. Gresswell, officially reporting on Melbourne's sanitary conditions in 1890, found that "not one of the forty-three milk establishments which I have visited (in Heidelberg) was in a satisfactory condition, and most of them were in a very unsatisfactory condition", while the cow sheds were often "thoroughly foul".³¹

Fodder crops, and perhaps the occasional crop of potatoes, were still grown on the river flats. It was a sign of the changed times that the flour mill by the river, ruinous and in disuse, was converted to chaff-cutting in the 1870's. Another sign of the times was the erection of a cheese factory in Jika Street: unfortunately, it did not survive long.³²

Other land uses.

Not all the old land uses of the riverlands were displaced. Over the years the gazetteers and guides which described Heidelberg still numbered fruit growing and market gardening as occupations there, and mention was still made of vineyards.³³ Some of the orchards were on the riverlands as the map shows, but there is not much information on where market gardening was carried on at this period. There were vegetables grown at Rockbeare, and perhaps elsewhere in Ivanhoe (Little Heidelberg) and possibly elsewhere along the Darebin, and on the Plenty above Cleveland. It is possible that the gazetteers and guides were out of date on market gardening or that when they referred to Heidelberg they meant the district around it rather than Heidelberg as we now mean it, and of course, the Shire took in much more territory than the present City. At any rate, according to the Argus of 20 Dec. 1884, market gardening had removed to Brighton and Caulfield long since: fruit growing would have been a more important activity throughout the district.

Quarrying was an industry which had started earlier. Local stone had been used to build Charterisville and Banyule. There was a quarry near Heidelberg Park - the Racecourse Quarry - and bluestone was got over near the Darebin. Map E shows those marked on early M.M.B.W. maps of the district. Heidelberg was very quiet during this period and one of the few complaints about traffic

- perhaps the only complaint - concerned the heavy stone traffic damaging a bridge near the Donaldsons' in 1888.³⁴

Fences and Hedges.

When Heidelberg's paddocks needed new fencing it seems that people stuck to tradition for a considerable time. In the 1870's the Council Minutes contain references to the construction of three-rail post and rail fences, very much as if this was the usual form fencing took.³⁵ These Council fences, however, may not have been as sturdily built as some older ones. The Rev. Mr. Bolden wanted a three-rail fence of red gum with rails 7 feet long, 9 inches wide and 4 inches thick along the proposed road through his property, but the Council would not come at it.³⁶ In 1899 or 1900 a new three-rail fence of a substantial sort was built between Hartlands and Glenard: a suggested one of "3 feet of wire sheep proof netting with 2 round wires on top and capped with barbed wire, the posts to be of the ordinary description placed 9 feet apart," was rejected as it was more costly than post and rail.³⁷ Fences could, however, have had a single wire to strengthen them.³⁸

Thus in the more countrified parts of Heidelberg, fences continued to be built very much as they had been in the 1840's, and pickets were still generally used around houses and other buildings.

A major change in the demarcation of the land was the maturing of hedges - indeed, over maturing in some cases. In the 1880's the Council sometimes ordered that "live fences" which were encroaching on roads should be removed. Offenders included R. Greaves, perhaps then at Leighton.³⁹

By the end of the century hedges had made Heidelberg distinctive:

Hawthorn hedges and dog roses, privet and honeysuckle, which now form hedgerows seldom seen in this land of post and rails.

Nearly all the year round pale blush roses nod and sway in the hedges on the road to Templestowe and masses of sweet briar and wild myrtle grow on the slopes by the wayside... In the hedges wooden platforms are built, the farmers place cans of milk on them, and a passing waggon collects them. The jingle of empty cans returning is quite characteristic of the countryside of life at Heidelberg.⁴⁰

It is said that the first recorded planting of radiata pine as a windbreak was made by Baron von Mueller in 1859 at Doncaster and that there were many more such plantings in the 1860's and 1870's.⁴¹ These may have been a feature of the landscape to the east, rather than that of Heidelberg, but these windbreaks certainly distinguished the views from Heidelberg and conifers of various kinds were certainly frequently grown there.⁴²

Pollution.

On 13th October, 1875, Heidelberg Council carried unanimously a motion that no more permits be granted to deposit night soil in the Shire. Despite this show of hands and apparent strength of feeling, night soil did continue to be deposited for some years. (Map D shows some of the places where it was used.) The Council members were, it should be said, in a very difficult situation, for the problem of the disposal of the excreta of the inner suburbs was growing monstrously by the mid-1860's.⁴³ Less than a month after the decision to pollute Heidelberg's lands no longer, Melbourne's Central Board of Health was asking for permission for Fitzroy to deposit night soil there:⁴⁴ it was granted on 12 January 1876, but the excrement was only to be used in Alphington, at Perry's.⁴⁵ As the map shows, however, night soil was used at some times within the boundaries of the present City.

The trouble was that it was not always used in the most hygienic manner possible. Dr. Gresswell observed (not, however, with special reference to Heidelberg) that excreta was often placed on the surface of orchards or of market gardens, instead of being covered, even where "market produce has already grown to some size".⁴⁶

. . . .

Heidelbergers became much more aware of the problems caused by pollution of the environment during this period. There was an outbreak of typhoid in 1898, perhaps linked with the "malodorous ditches" of Warringal.⁴⁷ There was, of course, no proper provision for sewerage and wastes of all sorts could end in Heidelberg's formerly pristine streams. Garden cites the mining upstream (already mentioned for its disastrous effect on the flood plain), the use by stock and by swimmers, as well as drainage, for the decline of the Yarra's purity;⁴⁸ the Argus believed that cultivation upstream was also destroying the clarity of the waters.⁴⁹ Despite protests about water quality the connection of Heidelberg to Yan Yean did not begin until 1889, but even then the problems of drainage and sewage remained.

2. "SLEEPY HOLLOW"

Heidelberg ceased to be a major agricultural centre in the 1860's. Its population declined into the 1880's with old houses standing empty and few new ones built.⁵⁰ The Collingwood Mercury (there was no local paper) constantly referred to Heidelberg as "sleepy hollow", according to Donald Garden.⁵¹ The reasons for Heidelberg's sleep are complex: Garden has some discussion of them.

The Railway and the Land Boom.

The construction of the railway line to Heidelberg in 1888, together with the boom, should have ended the long doze - or so one might think. But the railway's indirect route did little if anything for travellers and prevented the land boom from opening up Heidelberg as a suburb, as it might have done had it created a cheap, quick means of getting to and from Melbourne.⁵² Despite the considerable buying of land by speculators little of the landscape was changed by the boom.⁵³ In Ivanhoe there was a certain amount of subdivision and a section of this was on the Darebin - "the Toorak of the north" - of 1888.⁵⁴ (See map). Part of Leighton was sold but the eastern section was not, because insufficient was offered for it, so low in value was the area considered to be,⁵⁵ for it was no longer notably productive and not close enough to the railway line to look ripe for subdivision. So the eastern part of Leighton remained a farm, as did Charterisville after the death of D.C. McArthur,⁵⁶ but the changes to the latter property must have been marked as a lovingly tended "fancy farm" slid into decay in the hands of its tenant.⁵⁷

Facts and figures are sparse but Garden considers that not many new houses were built in the area. Heidelberg Village did grow quite substantially from 457 people in 1881 to 713 in 1891 (from 102 to 134 inhabited dwellings), but much of the buying and selling of land elsewhere in the district was purely speculative.⁵⁸

Garden believes, however, that the boom years did stimulate local life and so, to some extent, "sleepy hollow" did stir. It was at this time that Heidelberg finally obtained Yan Yean water and gas: the gasometers and works were a major new element in the riverlands. Garden describes also an advance in the development of Heidelberg's social institutions and in its sense of community.⁵⁹ This had little if any immediate impact on the riverlands, but it would be hard to pin down all the direct and indirect effects of this maturing. One evidence of it was the formation of Progress Associations, the first of which appears to have been the Ivanhoe Advancement Society, in existence

by 1889.⁶⁰ Later the Ivanhoe-Alphington Progress Association, formed in November 1900, set out on a formidable programme which included a bridge to link Ivanhoe and Kew, and recreation grounds. This Association suggested parkland at what is now Sparks Reserve, Rockbeare or Chelsworth.⁶¹ The bridge was not achieved, but the parkland ultimately was. The role of Progress Associations and other local organizations deserves further research in order to clarify their role in Heidelberg's development.

The depression of the 90's.

1900 is, however, close to the end of the period being discussed here. As Garden sees it, the depression that followed hard on the boom, together with the indirect train link to Melbourne, delayed further change at Heidelberg - in the sense of progress - for a decade.⁶² For many people at Heidelberg, as for many elsewhere, it was simply a struggle for survival. This applied to the farmers as to others,⁶³ for prices fell very low,⁶⁴ and even lowered rents did not save all tenants.⁶⁵

By the new century conditions had improved. October, 1901 saw the opening of the direct railway link at last and prepared the way for the great changes of this century. Not long before this grand event the Leader observed that

The signs of the times are that Heidelberg, the 'Sleeping Beauty' of the last half century, is about to awake, and take her place among the busy, lively daughters of the metropolis...⁶⁶

3. THE "SLEEPING BEAUTY"

The writers of guides and other works of the period usually appreciated the sleeping Heidelberg. A few impressions are given on the Map but there were others, some really enthusiastic like one of 1885, remarking on the

charming and romantic views of sylvan scenery, especially about Warringal, where it rises into magnificence.⁶⁷

This, no doubt, referred to the hills in the distance, still clothed in trees, which led the eye on to the distant ranges. The contrast between civilised Heidelberg and the bush had always pleased and still existed, although the forests now lay further off.

But Heidelberg itself had, by the end of the century, acquired a new quality: that of age. It had always delighted many because of its Englishness, now that Englishness had acquired a patina. The village had

many of the characteristics of an English hamlet

...

The excursionist will find in and around Heidelberg some of the quaintest old-world spots imaginable, that look as if they were centuries old, and the occupiers are in keeping with them.⁶⁸

This is a bit mocking but 'Carew', writing just at the moment before Heidelberg began to change, whole-heartedly delighted in the district's picturesqueness. It was 'Carew' who described the hedgerows (see earlier in this section). The description continued:

On the Heidelberg side (of the bridge) are shady backwaters, where pollard willows form lovely groups, and wild duck leave a trail through the green water weed. Here the ... Yarra is always lovely with wattle groves upon its banks, and giant gum trees at its edge. On some of the dairy farms noble groups of trees still stand ...⁶⁹

At Heidelberg there was a rare sense of age, and therefore of stability, and a rare harmony seemed to exist between the original nature of the place and what had been brought there by the white settlers.

There were many who loved to come to Heidelberg. Some came to live.

The old and the new gentlemen.

Most of the original gentlemen of Heidelberg had left by the beginning of this period but most of their houses and gardens remained, at least for a time, to add distinction to their neighbourhoods. The map indicates that there was a trickle of "professional and mercantile men"⁷⁰ to Heidelberg, or more especially to Ivanhoe, even in the desolate 1860's. That decade and those later saw some substantial houses and mansions built in Heidelberg itself, or just outside, and many influenced the riverlands with their commanding presences: Ivanhoe, Yallambie - the new house on the Bakewells' Plenty Station, Springbank in Bulleen, Prior Park and Ivanhoe Manor on the Darebin, Rockleigh, across the Darebin from Rockbeare.

Not all new houses were grand but neither were they suburban in character. They tended to be comfortable houses, not cramped villas, and they usually had spacious grounds. They were often built for well-to-do commuters to Clifton Hill, Fitzroy or Collingwood.⁷¹ None of the new houses were built on the Yarra flood

plain but it is worth mentioning that in 1884 cottages⁷² still stood there which had been covered by the flood of 1863. No doubt they were part of picturesque Heidelberg.

"A favourite place of resort for excursionists and picnic parties."⁷³

In the early days there had been plenty of visitors to Heidelberg, apart from those making purely social or business calls. Anyone seeking to understand the new colony's society and burgeoning agriculture would have come to Heidelberg, for it was an important place. From the 1860's it was no longer important in this way but it was greatly enjoyed for its beauty, its grand views, its picturesqueness, its serenity and its reminders of "home". As 'Carew' observed, it was close to the city yet had the charm of the bush.⁷⁴ Heidelberg represented an escape from the ugly progress of Melbourne.

Picnickers might visit the cricket ground or race course

undoubtedly ... the prettiest in the Colony, being partly surrounded by a high hill from which a vast panoramic view is obtained of the surrounding country.⁷⁵

(Later in the century they could admire the developing Heidelberg Park above). They saw Heidelberg Village with "its old-fashioned church", "nestling in a hollow surrounded on three sides by gentle wooded heights", and they glimpsed "comfortable and substantially built residences peeping out from among groves of trees".⁷⁶ If they were lucky they might have seen the Melbourne Hunt setting out in pursuit of the inedible from the "Old England".

But the greatest attraction of the area was probably the Yarra. "There are so many shady spots, so many lazy bathing places", as 'Carew' remarked with approval.⁷⁷ This was not the feeling of the Shire Council, or of other Councils whose territories adjoined the Yarra. They wished to define bathing places, bathing times and most certainly bathing dress.⁷⁸ But Heidelberg at this period was still comparatively sparsely populated and there were many places where people might wander to pick wild flowers, or maidenhair, or go boating, or even bathe in the nude.

Artists.

The Heidelberg School were not the first artists to discover Heidelberg. From early days, there had been visitors who sketched or painted in the district. Some were amateurs but some were important professional figures: J.S. Prout, Eugen Von Guerard, Edward Latrobe Bateman, Louis Buvelot. In the 1880's a number of painters formed a group for "plein air" (open air) painting, visiting Alphington, Ivanhoe, Templestowe and Diamond Creek on their expeditions. The artists included Arthur Streeton, Fred McCubbin, Walter Withers, E. P. Fox, Tudor St. George Tucker, Jane Sutherland, Tom Humphrey, Louis Abraham, J. Llewellyn Jones, Frederick Williams, John Mather and John Longstaff.⁷⁹ The lists given of these painters do not mention Tom Roberts but he must have joined in when he returned to Melbourne in 1885. These day sketching trips were, Helen Topliss observes, the "antecedents" of the Heidelberg School's famous camps.⁸⁰

The name Heidelberg School is associated particularly with four artists: Roberts, McCubbin, and Streeton with Charles Conder joining them from Sydney. The first of their camps were at Box Hill and Mentone. Eaglemont, now easily if lengthily reached by train, was next, established in 1888. It is linked particularly with Roberts, Streeton, Conder: above all with Streeton, but many other artists came to Mt. Eagle, including students taught by Streeton and Conder at summer classes. In August, 1889 the famous exhibition of "nine by five Impressions" was held in Melbourne. Many of the Impressions had been painted at Heidelberg. Many have unfortunately now disappeared, including some of Tom Roberts! The core group of the Heidelberg School - Roberts, McCubbin, Streeton and Conder have become famous artists, some of whose works have never been exceeded in popularity amongst the the Australian public. Some of Walter Withers and David Davies works are also greatly loved; other fine works produced by people connected with the School have also captured the public imagination; others perhaps have not yet had full recognition.

Of the great number of works produced by the School and those influenced by it some of the most loved - and most critically acclaimed - were produced at Heidelberg or in the surrounding district. They are paintings which entered into the Australian imagination and, in so doing, helped to shape it: images of Heidelberg have developed a mythic power as images of Australia itself. The paintings, and the landscapes that inspired them (in so far as they survive) thus go beyond local or regional importance. They are of national significance.

Walter Withers, on his return from France, joined the Mt. Eagle Camp. When the group broke up in 1890 Withers went to live at Charterisville, sharing the house with the Veitch family who ran the property as a dairy farm. The cottages on the estate were leased out to various artists. Hal Waugh and Tom Humphrey, and no doubt others, had also been at Mt. Eagle. Others had not, but to many the Eaglemont camp had, in a few brief years, become a place of legend.⁸¹

Amongst those who lived at Charterisville, Emanuel Phillips Fox is one of the most noted. With Tudor St. George Tucker he started the Melbourne School of Art in Melbourne and at Charterisville. Fox built a studio for himself there. Many of the students were women: they included Ina Gregory and Violet Teague. Successions of artists came after the ending of the Melbourne School: Lionel and Norman Lindsay, Max Meldrum and Will Dyson (the cartoonist) were amongst them as well as people connected with other arts, like Marshall Hall, the musician.

. . . .

Heidelberg, then, in the eighties and nineties attracted to itself a richness of artistic talents which it would prove hard to surpass in Australia - although Heide, just across the river, would later rival it in brilliance.

4. THE LANDSCAPE OF THE ARTISTS

Where they lived.

Both at Mt. Eagle and at Charterisville the artists lived in an atmosphere redolent of the Old World: here Heidelberg was at its most English. In both places there were magnificent gardens which, it is true, included local trees - gums⁸² and the she-oak⁸³ especially beloved of Streeton for example - but they were dominated by plants from afar. Streeton recollected the old weatherboard homestead at Mt. Eagle "beautifully surrounded by a little forest of coniferous and other fine trees";⁸⁴ in his letters he refers with impartial delight to both local and imported plants⁸⁵ and many of them were the subject of Impressions at the Exhibition of 1889.⁸⁶ Charterisville's garden was probably even more magical⁸⁷ and it too was the subject of many paintings, including some by E.P. Fox. Both properties naturally had orchards: Mt. Eagle's is better known to us because of Streeton's painting 'Eaglemont'. Charterisville's was very much older with some very large trees, and it ran down to the river.⁸⁸

The landscape beyond.

The artists were as enthralled by the majestic panorama that opened out to the east from the hills of Heidelberg as the early settlers were, although the view had changed very greatly in some ways. Since settlements had grown further out towards the ranges, the great forests of the Yarra basin had been cut down: there were now patches of woodland in the grassland, not glades in a sea of trees. Even along the river there was often little vegetation. Some banks were still fringed with gums and wattles but in other areas there were only single trees or groups of trees; elsewhere willows had replaced, or mingled with indigenous plants and sometimes (as shown in "Still Glides the Stream and Shall Forever Glide") the banks were quite bare. Pasture extended to the brink of river or billabong and the hooves of the cattle trampled and eroded these fragile places. Heidelberg's own hills were now virtually bare for the most part. Occasional red gums had been spared, the foreign greens of the mature gardens marked the established villas and flowery hedges outlined paddocks, but the overall effect and one of the most fascinating elements of the landscape for many painters was of a "wide expanse of bare domed hills, which offer, in spite of their apparent uniformity, an infinite variety in the everchanging atmosphere".⁸⁹

To Streeton his "dear gold hills"⁹⁰ were a source of joy and a subject for intense study as his magnificent paintings show,⁹¹ but many other paintings of the period also celebrate them. Viewbank now alone remains: all the others have been built over.

Streeton's great series of paintings - "Still Glides the Stream and Shall Forever Glide", "Golden Summer", "Near Heidelberg" and "Twilight Pastoral" - have made the great panorama of the Yarra Valley familiar to many generations of Australians, and many other artists at the time and since have also painted it or parts of it. The Heidelberg School, however, were also artists of the life of the district, even if that life was seen by them as far more idyllic than it in fact was. They found beauty, as Tom Roberts observed, "in odd corners of some country shanty",⁹² and they included in their paintings the farm buildings, the quiet unmade roads, the old red gum fences and bridges, the cattle at pasture or crossing the river, the orchards, ploughed land and land under crop. There are people in the pictures. A girl walks along a road, another along one of those paths, made by human feet (the delights of which we seem to be forgetting), bathers enjoy the river, strollers (picnickers from Melbourne) enjoy a ramble, a man ploughs, a boy tends sheep. Some details of them may have been imagined, for in preliminary studies some are absent,⁹³ but the pictures ring true.

The landscape the artists looked out onto, or explored, was not one of bushland. At Box Hill bushland had been a subject for the Heidelberg School (they had camped in it). At Heidelberg the effect of individual plants - eucalypts and she-oaks for example in Streeton's work - was captured, but the landscape at large was a pastoral landscape, a settled one, closely settled in Australian terms. Yet it should be added that this tamed landscape of foreground and middle distance in its juxtaposition with the distant ranges suggested the immensity of Australian space which lay just beyond the suburbs of the City.

The poetry of the derelict.

The Heidelberg of the painters was a semi-rural backwater, a place that had once thrived and been to the forefront of progress. There were many remains from those prosperous times: the villas of the gentry, their gardens and orchards for example. The houses were not painted - none of the artists appear to have been interested in them as subjects⁹⁴ - but the gardens and orchards did interest them. The artists revelled in the nostalgic beauties of Mt. Eagle and Charterisville. Orchards were a favourite subject of Streeton's and Conder's: Conder's "Orchard at Box Hill" (1888-90) shows us one of old fruit trees, neglected for years, with gum saplings springing up amongst them. Such an orchard can symbolise many things but most of us will sense poetry in the closeness of decay and renewed life. Streeton's "Eaglemont" (c.1889) on the other hand, shows the orchard under the impact of drought, in the coppery light of summer. It seems a miracle that the trees should survive and yield under the implacable sky.

In other paintings the neglect of the land can be seen. Gorse, hawthorn and briar encroached on pasture as they still do in places, reminding us of Davies' invaded land in "Moonrise, Templestowe". Withers also shows us a landscape of neglect: patches of gorse, an old fence which has lost its rails. These signs of neglect and of the derelict give many paintings of Heidelberg of this period a special character and atmosphere.

Streeton's "gold and blue".

Streeton's great series of pictures of the view to the east as - well as other major paintings - were done in summer at a time of drought.⁹⁵ Streeton had already used his famous gold and blue palette at Box Hill when he had painted gorse in bloom,⁹⁶ but the gold of gorse is deep and strong, the gold of the Heidelberg paintings has the pallor of grassland bleached by heat

and light: this pale gold, with the intense blue of the summer sky is the true blue and gold of nature in Australia. Streeton ecstatically experienced the Australian sun and the Australian summer at Heidelberg.⁹⁷

A changing scene.

The summer months at Heidelberg - with their wonderful inextricable mixture of hard work and pleasures - were of the greatest importance to the painters of the Heidelberg School, and to those who followed at Charterisville. For Streeton these golden summers must have at least helped foster in him the desire to experience the outback, an experience he thought would be a completely new one for him.⁹⁸

At the same time Streeton came to see the European remaking of the primeval landscape as a great drama.⁹⁹ He saw this drama as Australian: he did not reject the remaking of the landscape by the settlers - the new landscape was Australian too. Streeton would not have wanted his "dear gold hills" to be returned to their original woodland, nor the gorse and other exotic plants of Heidelberg that he had such affection for rejected and rooted out.

The painters appreciated the complexity of the Heidelberg landscape and its changeability. Part of that changeability came with the seasons and Streeton himself painted the green soft anglicised valley in winter and spring.¹⁰⁰ Differences in light also greatly affected the scenery and studies of light were central to the work of the Heidelberg School. "The great shimmer of trembling, brilliant sunlight" was one subject, but so too was the effect of

the sun setting over range and valley, the cool shadows rising on the soft pile of the tree-clothed slopes, while the far-off hills go distant and more distant in the grey dusk until the moon rises in the quiet east.¹⁰¹

Different painters had their own predilections. David Davies was particularly engrossed in the painting of the twilight and of moon rise. Walter Withers tended to paint the English aspect of the landscape in the lights that played up that aspect: he set down the Heidelberg of frosty mornings, approaching storms, of quiet days without glare.

. . . .

The paintings made at Heidelberg in the 1880's and 1890's include many masterpieces; taken together they are an unequalled evocation of a particular Australian place at a particular time which yet stands for Australian landscape and Australian experience at a level transcending any single locality.

The question naturally arises: how realistic, how "true to life" were the works? Few if any artists are concerned with literal representation. The Heidelberg School's members were, of course, concerned to capture the Australian light and its effects as they saw them at Heidelberg but this meant no slavish fidelity to what was there before them. Streeton's "Golden Summer" illustrates this. The "Impression" for it contains sheep but no little boy - there is a scarecrow instead - there is no farm on the brow of the hill and the trees are different and differently disposed from those in the final painting. The foreground of the latter has more defined ground shaping than the Impression. Other differences can be observed. Thus we cannot be sure, when there is no other evidence, that the details of the paintings are accurate - or 'true to life'. But both "Golden Summer" and its "Impression" evoke a general truth which is at once realistic and poetic, and it is this which should count in any attempt to evoke the landscape of the Heidelberg School and the later painters of this period in the riverlands of the present day.

A TIME OF DISASTERS

Recession in the late 50's was followed by a time of droughts, floods and plagues of caterpillars and rust and pleuro-pneumonia... The flood of December 1863 was one of several but it was exceptionally severe in its effects. Banyule's tenants were "obliged to become recipients of charity". FANNING was the only one who salvaged anything "but he had not a farthing in the world in cash, and only his livestock and farming implements left - Even his clothes were nearly all destroyed, but he has good friends to support him, and he will yet get on" (Others were not so fortunately placed). "Agriculture is paying no one now by itself, and farmers are turning their attention to grazing, rearing of poultry, pigs (etc.?) and dairying - good grasslands are therefore more valuable, more than agricultural lands - you cannot expect to get high rents now for these flats as independent of the alarm there is now about floods, there is also the fact that these lands are very much worked out..." GRAHAM 15 March 1864

George BENNETT of Lucerne, Collector for East Bourke, thought the drought of 1864 even worse in its effects on the occupiers of the river banks than the floods. "The land in many cases... was not workable until softened by the recent rains, and the deposit left by the floods, instead of being, as formerly, decayed vegetable matter... acting as an enriching... top-dressing to the soil, was an adhesive clayish substance (probably from the cuttings that had been made by miners at Anderson's Creek and other diggings for the purpose of altering the course of the river), and which seemed to have a deleterious... effect on the land... Potatoes planted in November never grew, and mangal-worm and other crops, sown in December and January did not come up until the month of May." The occupiers turned to pasture but most land, unfortunately, was not "properly prepared and laid down in permanent artificial grasses". BENNETT 7 July 1865 V.P.P. Session 1865-6

1892
MUNRO & BAILLIEU
1000a

THE AFTERMATH

Heidelberg was seen as being "in the centre of a rich agricultural, market gardening, and vine and fruit growing district" RAILWAYS TOURISTS' GUIDE 1895
But most of the "gardening" was now done presumably on lands above flood level, not on the flats as had earlier been the case. And there were only too "visible signs of decay."
"Well do we remember at the early period, seeing the place in summer with rich waving fields of growing corn, its smiling homesteads, its contented cattle, its prosperous farmers, and evident signs of agricultural wealth. The grain growing gave place to grass and dairy farming, the fields were left in fallow, the hedges began to be somewhat neglected, and some of the homesteads became sadly ruinous... Would (Heidelberg) never again awake... and what was once the garden of Melbourne, to be over-run with thorns, weeds and briars?" COLLINGWOOD MERCURY 8 May 1890 quoted GARDEN p128

GEO PORTER
(Porter family)
1892
LEASED TO FARMERS
780a

HELD BY
J. CREWS
1892
80a

T. FARRELL
d.1883
FARMING & DAIRYING
FARRELL HOUSE
Prior Park
George Mayger developed this property from land bought from the Farrells during the 1880's. Large house and gardens. Attempted subdivision 1888. Sold 1894.

SUBDIVISIONS

HEIDELBERG PARK

1886-9 First stage of laying out by Peter FANNING
1886 declared a picnic ground
1889 Shire office in the Park
1899 Old Court House moved to Park
1899 open drain was constructed to take the saltwater Creek into the Yarra (lined bluestone). The park was grazed in its early years.
"The Race Course... undoubtedly is the prettiest in the colony, being partly surrounded by a high hill from which a vast panoramic view is obtained. The Course, however, is but little used for racing... being only half a mile in circumference, accidents are very liable to take place." THOMAS GUIDE 1889
HEIDELBERG was still a small and scattered 1884 TREE

GRAVEL PITS

RACE COURSE QUARRY
RACE COURSE & CRICKET GROUND

HOUSE OF W RANK MILL

Banyule

With the change to dairying Banyule was divided into 3 farms, instead of the former 6.
Dr. Martin of Viewbank bought the estate in 1867. He put in new fencing, gates to the lodges and repaired the houses of the tenants.

MUTTALL, one tenant, turned to dairying and poultry. 15 March 1864
But Fanning attempted to keep on with the old system, only to be hit with further failure.
GRAHAM
MUTTALL & BLANCHARD both used night soil on Banyule in the 1890's Also 1880's
House in garden still there in 1864 but "damp" GRAHAM
"a regiment of sturdy oaks down near the river" City of Heidelberg News 16 Nov 1913
On 21 Dec 1864 tenant R. HOBSON was sternly rebuked for chopping down oaks and elms GRAHAM
400 of FANNING'S young trees destroyed by flood of December 1863
December 1863 crop on fruit trees destroyed

Viewbank

"has become a mere dairy farm, the garden being a grazing ground for cattle" LEADER 1900
DR. MARTIN had died in 1874. Viewbank was often closed up
"TRANQUIL WINTER" 1895
WITHERS was painted from this viewpoint. Witheres lived in the old farmhouse.

After the floods came weeds, docks and sorrel - and worse - "the red shank" has overspread all the flats growing in the bend near Dr. Martin's, by actual measurement seven feet high, and nearly an inch in circumference at the stem - all that has to be cut down by hand..." GRAHAM 4 May 1864
"A polygonatum species"

USE OF THE RIVER FLATS
Dairying became the predominant use on the river flats but there were still orchards and still some cultivation of vegetables as well as maize, mangels and other fodder were grown for the stock. David CAREW at CHELSWORTH lost 13a of potatoes in the flood of April 1901

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF HEIDELBERG
"The country all round is a very pretty farming district, but rather hilly... The Yarra-Yarra... dark and sluggish stream" (it was a drought year) There was no reason to call the area after Heidelberg. "Certainly there was the river Yarra, looking picturesque; it had a ruin, too, on its banks"

Yallambie
BOUGHT BY T. WRAGGE
1872
LEASED 1897-79
WRAGGS built Yallambie up into a fine property

Westbank
HELD IN TRUST BY
W.H. TUCKETT
1862

Woodside

Oaklined track to flat
HOUSE BUILT BY WRAGGE BETWEEN 1872 & 1878-9
Beautiful trees including conifers on slope
ORCHARD & MARKET GARDEN
Water wheel at "Yallambie"

1866 BRIDGE being planned and built stone and steel with bluestone abutments

"Around Banyule" and "Viewbank" were long stretches of hawthorn hedges and amongst the hawthorn briar roses and furze had also been planted, as they do in England" T.A. BANK

Shire of Cleveland
PORTER FAMILY

Council requested that Plenty be flushed 13 February 1884 and 11 February 1885

TYLER STREET BY 1892

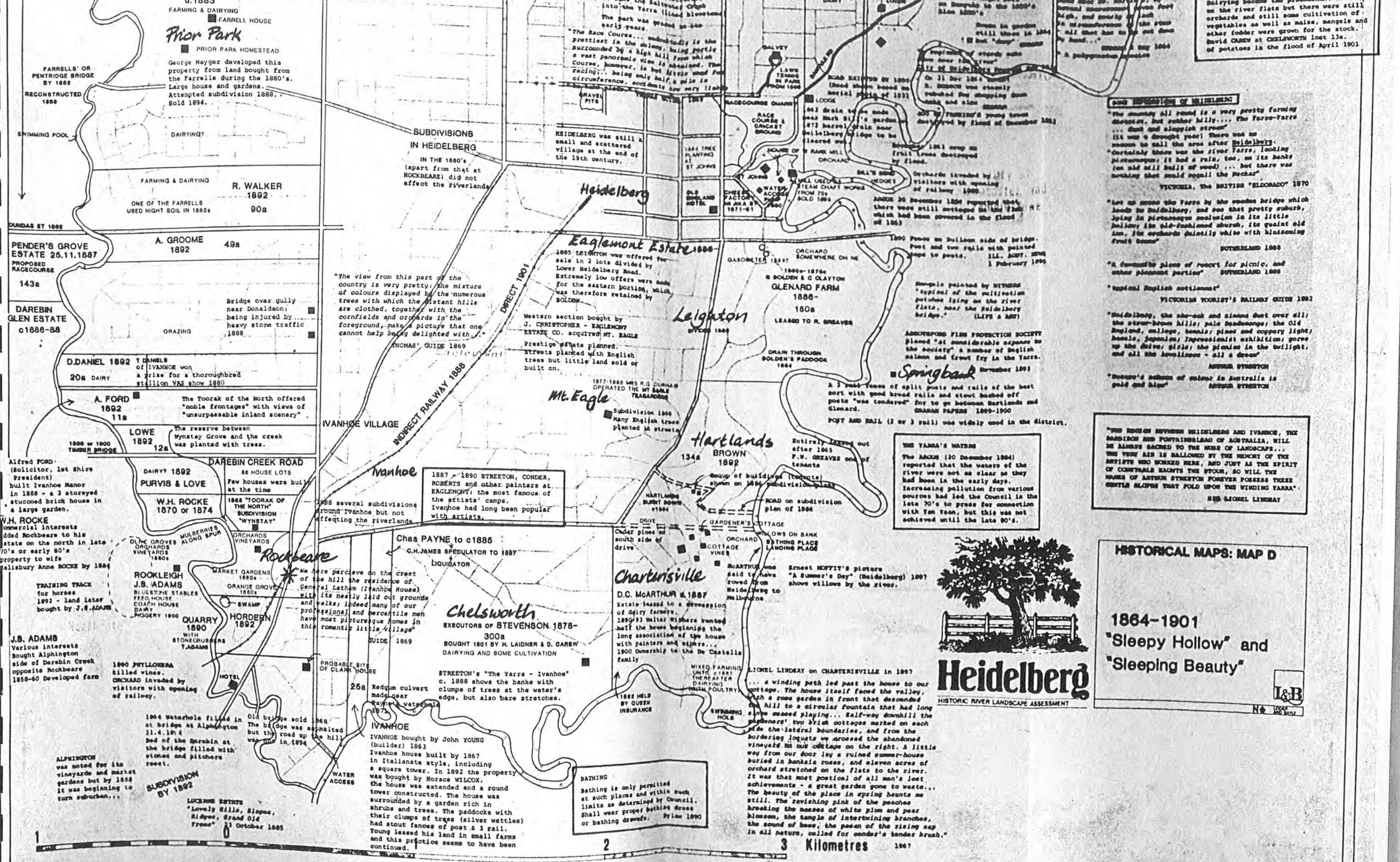
WOOD STREET BY 1892

LANE USING NIGHT SOIL 1894

BRIDGE ROAD (CHIFLEY DV.) BY 1892

FARRELLS' OR PENTRIDGE BRIDGE BY 1882
RECONSTRUCTED 1883

SWIMMING POOL



d.1883

FARMING & DAIRYING
FARRELL HOUSE

Prior Park

PRIOR PARK HOMESTEAD

George Hayer developed this property from land bought from the Farrells during the 1880's. Large house and gardens. Attempted subdivision 1888. Sold 1894.

DAIRYING?

R. WALKER 1892

ONE OF THE FARRELLS USED NIGHT SOIL IN 1880s

A. GROOME 1892

PENDER'S GROVE ESTATE 25.11.1887

DAREBIN GLEN ESTATE c1886-88

DAREBIN GLEN ESTATE c1886-88

D.DANIEL 1892 T DANIELS of IVANHOE won a prize for a thoroughbred stallion VAS show 1880

A. FORD 1892

LOWE 1892

Alfred FORD (Solicitor, 1st Shire President) built Ivanhoe Manor in 1888 - a 3 storeyed stuccoed brick house in a large garden.

W.H. ROCKE commercial interests added Rockbeare to his state on the north in late 70's or early 80's property to wife Salisbury Anne ROCKE by 1884

J.S. ADAMS Various interests bought Alphington side of Darebin Creek opposite Rockbeare 1858-60 Developed farm

1890 PYLLOKERA killed vines. ORCHARD invaded by visitors with opening of railway.

1894 Waterhole filled in at bridge at Alphington 11.4.1894 Bed of the Darebin at the bridge filled with stones and pitchers meet.

ALPHINGTON was noted for its vineyards and market gardens but by 1884 it was beginning to turn suburban...

LOCKE'S ESTATE "Lovely Hills, Slopes, Slips, Grand Old Trees" 31 October 1885

SUBDIVISIONS IN HEIDELBERG

IN THE 1880's (apart from that at ROCKBEARE) did not affect the Riverlands

Heidelberg

Eaglemont Estate 1888

1885 EAGLEMONT was offered for sale in 2 lots divided by Lower Heidelberg Road. Extremely low offers were made for the eastern portion, which was therefore retained by BOLTON.

Western section bought by J. CHRISTOPHER - EAGLEMONT ESTATE CO. acquired MT. EAGLE. Prestige estate planned. Streets planted with English trees but little land sold or built on.

MT. Eagle

1877-1888 MRS R.D. DUNNAN OPERATED THE MT EAGLE TRAMWAY. Subdivision 1888. Many English trees planted in streets.

Leighton

GLENARD FARM 1888-1908

LEASSED TO R. ORSAVER

Hartlands

BROWN 1892

Group of buildings (tenants) shown on 1894 subdivision plan

Chartersville

D.C. McARTHUR & 1887

estate leased to a procession of dairy farmers. 1890-93 Walter Withers rented half the house beginning the long association of the house with painters and others... 1900 Ownership to the De Castella family

Chelsworth

EXECUTORS OF STEVENSON 1878-300a BOUGHT 1901 BY H. LAIDNER & D. CARREW DAIRYING AND SOME CULTIVATION

STREETON'S "The Yarra - Ivanhoe" c. 1888 shows the banks with clumps of trees at the water's edge, but also bare stretches.

Ivanhoe

IVANHOE bought by John YOUNG (builder) 1863 Ivanhoe house built by 1867 in Italianate style, including a square tower. In 1892 the property was bought by Horace WILCOX, the house was extended and a round tower constructed. The house was surrounded by a garden rich in shrubs and trees. The paddocks with their clumps of trees (silver wattles) had stout fences of post & rail. Young leased his land in small farms and this practice seems to have been continued.

THE DISPOSITIONS OF HEIDELBERG

"The country all round is a very pretty farming district. But another hill... The Yarra-Yarra... and a sloping stream... (it was a drought year) There was no reason to call the area after Heidelberg... Certainly there was the river Yarra, looking picturesque; it had a ruin, too, on its banks (an old mill built of wood) ... but there was nothing that would equal the Pecker"

VICTORIA, THE BRITISH "ELDONADO" 1870

"Let us cross the Yarra by the wooden bridge which leads to Heidelberg, and see that pretty suburb, lying in picturesque isolation in its little hollow; its old-fashioned shanty, its quaint old inn, its orchards quaintly white with blossoming fruit trees"

SCOTCHLAND 1888

"A favorite place of resort for picnic, and other pleasant parties"

SCOTCHLAND 1888

"typical English cottages"

VICTORIAN TOURIST'S RAILWAY GUIDE 1892

"Heidelberg, the shanty and shanty that over all the street-houses hills, pale sandstone, the Old England, village, tennis; pine and coppy light; hamis, japonais; Impressionist exhibition; gorge up the drive, girls; the picnic in the twilight, and all the loveliness - all a dream"

ARMOUR STEVENSON

"Heaven's colors of colour in Australia is gold and blue"

ARMOUR STEVENSON

"THE RIVER IN THE HEIDELBERG AND IVANHOE, THE SANDSTONE AND FONTAINESLEAD OF AUSTRALIA, WILL BE ALWAYS SACRED TO THE NAME OF LANDSCAPE... THE YARRA IS SACRED BY THE MEMORY OF THE ARTISTS WHO WORKED HERE, AND JUST AS THE SPIRIT OF CHARLES MARY'S THE FOUNTAIN, SO WILL THE NAMES OF ARTHUR STEVENSON FOREVER POSSESS THESE GENTLE SLOPES THAT FOLD UPON THE WINDING YARRA"

SEE SHELBY LINDSAY

HISTORICAL MAPS: MAP D

1864-1901 "Sleepy Hollow" and "Sleeping Beauty"



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



NO 1004

BATHING Bathing is only permitted at such places and within such limits as determined by Council. Shall wear proper bathing dress or bathing drawers. Bylaw 1890

LIONEL LINDSAY on CHARTERSVILLE in 1897 "... a winding path led past the house to our cottage. The house itself faced the valley, with a rose garden in front that descended the hill to a circular fountain that had long since ceased playing... Half-way downhill the gardeners' two brick cottages marked on each side the lateral boundaries, and from the bordering locusts we crossed the abandoned vineyard to our cottage on the right. A little way from our door lay a ruined summer-house buried in banksia roses, and eleven acres of orchard stretched on the flats to the river. It was that most poetical of all man's lost achievements - a great garden gone to waste... The beauty of the place in spring haunts me still. The ravishing pink of the peaches breaking the masses of white plum and pear blossom, the tangle of intertwining branches, the sound of bees, the pean of the rising sap in all nature, called for connoisseurs' tender brush."

2 3 Kilometres 1967

PART V MAP E 1901 - 1934

A TIME OF PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTSThe neatness of suburbia

For rapidity of growth, "G.C" suggested in the Age (16 May, 1925),

red-roofed Ivanhoe... is the prodigy of suburbs. Electricity and the motor have brought Ivanhoe inward by miles. The land is now worth as many pounds as it was worth shillings. It is occupied by shops, beautiful homes, public halls, gardens tennis courts, and bowling green.

"Electricity" was probably a reference to the electrification of the railway (1921), but from the time the direct route by rail was opened between Heidelberg and Melbourne in 1901 the way was prepared for subdivision and the building of suburbia.

In 1901 the number of buildings in Heidelberg was 817, by 1911 it had virtually doubled to 1567. In the next decade it more than doubled to 3272 and by 1928 had again almost doubled - to 6,318.¹ Between 1908 and 1928 the population had quadrupled - from 6,065 to 24,317.²

Pictures of the period show the new houses, often very substantial, standing nakedly in what had recently been - or still were - country paddocks. Most jarred in this landscape and would continue to do so until mature trees had obliterated most reminders of the old farming countryside and softened the red solidity of the new structures. But a glance at the map shows how little the riverlands were affected by this transformation of Heidelberg into suburbia. The houses followed the railway line, and so it was only in Ivanhoe that the flood of red roofs approached the Yarra and the Darebin. Even there most of the development close to the streams was post World War I and in the 1920's (the opening of Darebin Station in 1922 gave the growth impetus).³ Elsewhere, close to the rivers, subdivision after subdivision was made, including Walter Burley Griffin's magnificent Glenard and Mt Eagle Estates; but pictures, directories and early aerial photographs show that little building was done at this time on the slopes above the river flats. In West Heidelberg some early subdivisions made no mark at all on the land and it was to be resubdivided anew at a much later time.⁴

Not all the subdivisions planned were suburban in

character. Areas of Heidelberg more remote from the railway and from Melbourne were still thought of as suitable for small farms or gentlemen's villas with spacious grounds.⁵

So the "neatness of suburbia" had overtaken parts of Ivanhoe and of Heidelberg itself, including Heidelberg Park "planned and clipped", "its old tangled growth... gone before the inrush of population and the greater prosperity".⁶ Other parts of the riverlands were, of course, also affected by the increase of population, the increase in land values, the spread of the suburbs and of suburban needs and ways of thinking, as well as by the growth of Melbourne at large - as will be seen later. But a very substantial part of the riverlands still preserved many of the old characteristics of the 1880's or 1890's and earlier - or where they changed, as in the spread of market gardening on some of the river flats, they might have seemed almost to be reverting to the 1840's and 50's. It was only towards the end of the period that steps were taken which prepared the way for very different landscapes with new uses.

The face of the rural riverlands

Even where Alphington and Ivanhoe approached each other, farms and gardens along the banks of the Darebin and Yarra still maintained a country image in the narrowed space. Lucerne had survived amongst its picturesque farm buildings⁷ and while Rockbeare house was now enclosed in a built up area, the new Rockleigh, with its colourful garden,⁸ kept up the district's tradition of the substantial country villa set in farmland. (Just south of Rockleigh, and part of the estate, was an enormous quarry. Quarries - for many decades a part of the Darebin landscape - still scarred it around Ivanhoe.)

To the north of Ivanhoe the suburbs petered out and West Heidelberg remained a quiet farming area of dairies, poultry farms and piggeries, with its few houses, clumps of trees and pine windbreaks, and occasional patches of cultivation, mainly for green fodder crops.⁹ Across the Darebin, Preston and Northcote echoed this rural landscape: there must have been a real sense of country spaciousness.

But in those days even Kew, close to the Yarra, presented a rural face, and the extensive flats north and south of the river still retained their pastoral beauty into the 1930's. Wilson Reserve, Chelsworth Park and the Ivanhoe and Kew Golf Clubs had all been created before the end of the period, but little change had taken place when an aerial survey was made in 1931.¹⁰

Parkland was also displacing orchard at Sill's Bend towards the end of the period and Heidelberg Park was refurbished and tidied,¹¹ but elsewhere on the Yarra's Banks at Warringal the riverlands remained remarkably unsuburbanised, as indeed they still miraculously do today, although greatly changed from the 1930's.¹² As it had so long done, Heidelberg must have seemed still to be on the fringes of metropolitan development, for Bulleen, Templestowe and Doncaster were still country with Streeton's gold hills unspoilt - and were to remain into the early 1960s. For a long time to come after 1930 it was still possible, from vantage points in Heidelberg, to look east to the flats where cattle grazed or market gardens flourished, up to the hill slopes, sometimes cultivated for cereal crops, and to the orchards and pine windbreaks even higher up.¹³ Looking north and east from the embankment of Heidelberg Park, say, not only the riverlands but the upland of Banyule and Viewbank remained country, with few houses, scarcely changed from the days when the Heidelberg painters had gazed on them. Rather more of the landscape by the 1930's appears to have been rescued from the dereliction of the 1880's and 90's and early part of the twentieth century, but there was still derelict country, notably perhaps at Charterisville, where in the early 1930's Mr Frank Watts found gorse as high as a man and the Chinese market garden the only well cared for land on the estate.¹⁴ But in many other places also briars still grew and wildflowers still survived in the paddocks. This was so, Mr. Wilfred Osborne recalled, in the paddock where Fairy Street joins Heidelberg Road, in the years before World War I:¹⁵ briars, gorse and hawthorns as well as some indigenous plants have managed to survive until today in some other parts of Heidelberg.

Rural activities on the riverlands

Dairying, pig farming and poultry farming were still staple occupations for many of the farming families of Heidelberg. For example, David Daniels (or Daniel?)¹⁶ who had arrived in the district in 1876, lived at "The Pines" in Ford Street, on the banks of the Darebin, until about 1920. An old photograph shows his timber house with verandah along two sides, with pines as a backing and rows of what are probably young fruit trees or bushes on the garden at the side. He owned 20 acres¹⁷ (but may have leased additional land) and he had a large silo on the Creek bank, for the storing of fodder or making of silage.¹⁸ Such silos made substantial features in the riverlands at this time. The Daniels property was sold in about 1920¹⁹ and in 1930 "The Pines" was being used as a rest home.²⁰ Perhaps the land was still being grazed, for the built up area had not yet engulfed it in 1929. (See map).

In his time David Daniels had supplied the Austin Hospital with milk.²¹ Growing Melbourne meant that there was a ready market for milk very close to hand for the dairy farmers. Many of them had small holdings but not all the farms were small. Viewbank, so long neglected, became, in the 1920's, the nucleus for a farm which ultimately grew to be 600 acres, having been enlarged by land from Banyule and from Cleveland.²² Harold Bartram and his family converted the new Viewbank into a model estate. By 1936 some of the improvements included:

Manager's Cottage and Boys' Cottage
 Modern milking shed (38 cows)
 8 concreted bull yards
 Hay sheds (feeders) capacity 200 tons
 Stable - 8 horses (Iron)
 Implement shed (Iron)
 Modern Brick dairy, washroom etc
 3 silos 24 x 36 capacity approx 400 tons
 18 x 36 " " 200 tons
 15 x 36 " " 100 tons
 2 grain silos capacity 30 tons
 Chaff house, capacity 70 bags
 Fencing - 20 Paddocks for intermittent grazing
 174 acres sown down and established in permanent pasture²³

Many of the buildings clustered close to the three great silos, which form such a splendid memorial to this phase of riverland history. An unmade farm track (its centre grassed) ran out to the public road; the fencing was post and wire.²⁴ (But there was still much post and rail fencing to be found in the district - at Banyule, for example.)²⁵

At Viewbank, phosphates and lime were applied to the pasture. On the river flats (85 acres), it was claimed, "perennial grass and clover species" had been sown "from time immemorial"! Annual clovers, white and red clovers, perennial rye and cocksfoot and Prairie grass were used at their appropriate times. The higher ground, it was said, could be brought into a highly productive state,²⁶ which suggests that most of it was probably still under native grasses.

If indeed it had a large proportion of unimproved pasture, Viewbank would have been by no means unusual, for even in the 1940's there was still three times the extent of unimproved as of improved pasture in Victoria.²⁷ Indeed, in using phosphates, Viewbank was managed in an advanced way. The use of super with subterranean clover (from the Mediterranean) was to change Victorian pastures - and to lead to their carrying two or even three times the number of stock,

but it took time to solve the problems associated with this great advance.²⁸ At Viewbank the super was being used with plants long introduced from English pastures.

Some of these species did not do well in the dry Australian summers, but they would have done better on Heidelberg's lush flats. The river flats were not of course, typical of Victoria's pasture.

Viewbank was not just a dairy farm. As on many other dairy farms pigs were kept (this traditional association was based on the pigs feeding on the whey when cream was used for butter), but Viewbank was also a stud for Jerseys and Friesians and it became famous too for its horses and ponies. Mrs Eileen Bartram was said to be among Australia's greatest pony breeders.³⁰

The association with horses and with stock breeding takes us back to the era of the gentlemen's estates of the 1940's : an impression strengthened by the revivifying of Banyule at this time as a stud. (But while Banyule house survived, old Viewbank was demolished during World War 1.)

Viewbank and Banyule became progressively managed estates during this period, while Charterisville and other properties were neglected. Farming had prospered early in the century and had boomed after World War 1, but world overproduction led to falling world food prices and hard times on the land. The depression worsened conditions.³¹ Just how far Heidelberg was affected is a question which requires further research to answer, but some of the neglect of land may probably be explained, or partially explained, in these terms.

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Many of the riverlands, then, remained grazing land, as they had largely been since the second half of the 1860's. Some of the land was well cared for, with some improved pasture, patches of maize, lucerne, oats, and contented cattle. Silos were a new element in the landscape, and some new farm buildings too. New fences tended probably to be post and wire, rather than post and rail.

But there were other activities for the riverlands. One was the return of market gardening, largely undertaken by the Chinese.

The market gardens

The beautifully organised and maintained gardens of the Chinese must have contrasted strongly with the pastoral landscape of so much of the riverlands. The gardens would have formed a multi-coloured mosaic of precisely laid out strips containing a considerable variety of vegetables.³² The Chinese levelled and terraced their flats along the Boulevard between Banksia Street Bridge and Burke Road bridge (signs of this have only recently been obliterated by the MMBW) and at least one garden (on Charterisville) was irrigated with the aid of a water wheel, the foundations of which still remain. Mr. Frank Watts remembers, with admiration, the skill with which the Chinese worked out their levels, without any of the instruments which would have made the task relatively easy.³³ Further research might reveal what sort of crop rotations the gardeners used and how they fertilised the soil.

The gardeners worked very hard and they lived in no great comfort. At one garden in Hawthorn there was a modest but sound looking house, but in the Boulevard area accommodation was in sheds and huts - one of which at least was a small, ramshackle affair of assorted materials.³⁴

In fact, according to Richard Broome, many of the gardeners in Victoria were very poor,³⁵ despite their hard and careful work. These found themselves in a tragic situation for most had no wives or families with them and most wanted to return home, but could not afford to do so.³⁶ Their pleasures must have been very meagre : perhaps limited to an occasional trip to little Bourke Street to play fan-tan with fellow exiles.³⁷ They nevertheless presented a gracious front to those local people who came to them for vegetables, giving them jars of ginger at Christmas time.³⁸ Relations in Heidelberg between the whites and the Chinese appear to have been amicable, if distant in most - but not all - cases.³⁹ When their low lying huts were flooded out they were given shelter in the loose boxes at Glenard,⁴⁰ or at the Smiths. Mr Smith helped the Chinese with advice on financial matters and they in gratitude provided the Smith family with free vegetables.⁴¹

From the scanty information available it seems that Ah Nuey was the first gardener to arrive in Heidelberg, around about 1912.⁴² The Chinese gardens disappeared with the 1934 flood, and this is one reason that that date was chosen for the end of the period being discussed here. Were the Chinese ignorant of the severity of the Yarra's flooding? Two points at least can be made here. One is that there were also white market gardeners along Heidelberg's streams, specially

on the Yarra flats at Templestowe, some of long standing in the district.⁴³ The second is that there was a belief, at least among the optimists, that the Yarra's floods were becoming less and less disastrous as obstructions, like embankments, were removed along the river.⁴⁴

In 1924 there was, however, a foretaste of what was to come in a flood, which, the Argus observed, affected the Chinese market gardeners more than anyone else. At Heidelberg the damage to each of the three gardens was estimated at 500 pounds while Chong Lee's at the Darebin was less damaged at 100. The desperation of the Chinese was evident:

The residences in two colonies became submerged, and the inhabitants had to leave. They did not do so, however, without protest. Even when the water had begun to cover the floors over a foot deep they said that they intended to remain. The Heidelberg police had to compel them to go.....⁴⁵

In 1934, one gardener tied a rope around his tiny hut and tried to pull it up out of the flood, but failed.⁴⁶

The 1934 flood was too much for the Chinese, as those of 1863 and 1864 (especially that of December 1863) had been for their European forerunners. For some the situation was even more bitter, for it is said that they had been robbed of their savings, or had perhaps lost them in the flooding.⁴⁷

What became of them? Unfortunately, I can give no answer.

.....

The Chinese departed, but market gardens were still to be found in parts of Heidelberg and surrounding districts in later years. From the beginning of the century, however, there were portents of a change away from the traditional rural uses of the riverlands to non-rural ones.

The move away from rural uses

From its earliest years the Heidelberg riverlands had attracted many visitors from outside the district, in addition to local people in their leisure as well as their working hours. Heidelberg Park enjoyed a certain fame, but some of the visitors also found their way along the streams, tolerated by the proprietors of water frontages.

One of the most vivid effects of the opening of the direct railway to Heidelberg was the sudden enormous jump in day visitors on public holidays. (On Cup Day in 1904, 7,000 came by rail to Heidelberg, 3,000 to Ivanhoe, 2,000 to Alphington and 1,000 to Fairfield, while at least 3,000 others arrived in the district by van or other transport.⁴⁸ Unfortunately, I have no comparable figures for the period before the opening of the direct rail, but it is clear that the increase was very great.)

It was immediately apparent that this influx was going to damage the riverlands in some places. The Heidelberg News reported on 15 November, 1901 that orchards in the district had been badly affected. The objection to the minority responsible (the News was careful to stress that it was a minority) was not so much that they stole fruit as that they destroyed the trees. Thus, it is not surprising that the famous orchards of Heidelberg began to disappear during the period. This sort of destruction would, no doubt, have extended also to other plants (like the popular wattle and other wildflowers) which people in general at this time did not hesitate to pick in large quantities. Some of the visitors were destructive in another way also: they damaged or undid the ropes of the boats owned by the locals, so that by 1924 few people kept boats at Heidelberg.⁴⁹

All these things illustrate the pressures and the strains that were put on a small still semi-rural district by the increased population of the metropolis of Melbourne, in search of some brief respite from the pressures and strains of city life on them. There began a certain degradation of some of the quiet landscapes of the riverlands: a fate usually experienced by fringe areas.

It would be unfair solely to blame the visitors to Heidelberg for this change. The increasing population of the area itself added its pressure to that of the visitors. But in any event, the swelling local population was associated with other changes. As Heidelberg became more and more suburbanised a desire for parkland and sportsfields grew: the old Heidelberg Park was no longer adequate. Inevitably eyes turned to the riverlands.

At least as early as 1906 the Alphington and Ivanhoe Progress Society hoped that a park might be created from Livingstone Street through Rockbeare and Fairy Hills to the Yarra. The valley of the Darebin at Rockbeare, it was said, "is termed "Paradise" by the generation of today";⁵⁰ it was "already ... a place of resort by ladies of the district on fine afternoons."⁵¹

If it was Paradise now, "what an elysium it must have appeared in the generations of the past", the Heidelberg News enthused, lamenting Man's presumption in "improving" on God's work.⁵² Despite this show of piety, however, what was wanted was no return - or total return - to the previous elysium. Land on both sides of the creek near the Darebin Creek Hotel, for example, "while lending itself naturally to an ornamental garden" also provided "ample room for a tennis court, bowling green, cricket pitch, football ground and shelter sheds for picnickers."⁵³

Suburbanisation then brought with it a need and desire for more formal arrangements for leisure: for ornamental gardens and for sports areas. There is no need here to unfold the story of how the reserves for these purposes were made. The maps for this period and the next show the new reserves and the golf courses which were used not only by those living in Heidelberg but also by many from outside it. One reserve does demand a special mention, however: the Wilson Reserve. In 1924 some Ivanhoe people, including C. Bailey, Mr Eiseman and H.D. Wilson (group Scout master of the local Sea Scouts Branch founded in August, 1908) hit on the brilliant idea of raising money to buy the future Reserve by selling the river frontage to supporters at 2s.6d a foot.⁵⁴ The beautiful land was then presented to the council. This is an outstanding example of the importance of initiative and imagination at grass roots level, qualities which seem to have been exceptionally strong among Heidelberg's citizens.

One of the reasons for the drive to acquire land was, of course, to cease to be dependent on the good will of proprietors (Mr Scott, the owner of the future Wilson Reserve had allowed its use by the Sea Scouts since their foundation in 1908 and it was the proposed sale of his land in 1924 which led the Ivanhoe residents to act.) The acquisition of land paved the way for improvements not possible on land in private hands. As already mentioned, however, many reserves had to wait a considerable time before money could be found to make what was desired of them. It is only after 1931, for example, that Chelsworth Park and the Ivanhoe Golf Course began to take the shape that we know today.⁵⁵

There were other signs of the formalising of leisure in the riverlands down to 1934. Of course there were still plenty of "unimproved" bathing spots along the streams, but the first decade of the century saw the formation of large swimming clubs with their own special places (the Heidelberg near Sills Orchard, the Ivanhoe-Alphington at the Sandbanks and the Eaglemont at Charterisville and later at Templestowe.)⁵⁶ Swimming clubs like Club rooms if possible and certainly dressing sheds (although at the Sandbanks the

walls of the ladies shed was inevitably drilled for spy-holes by the boys).⁵⁷ The clubs organised many meetings, when the river banks would have been thronged with holiday crowds watching both serious competitions and amusing events: the Ivanhoe Clubs planned a Carnival at the Sandbanks on 20 February, 1909, which included a tub race and ended with a polo match.⁵⁸ (Heidelberg, unlike some of the other Councils, had come to allow bathing in the Yarra at all times, provided that the "bather was properly attired in neck to knee costume").⁵⁹

The pleasure given to great numbers of people by the Yarra during this period and for a considerable time later is hard to imagine now. And people spent time not only in it or by it but on it. Private boats became a rarity⁶⁰ but boathouses for the hire of boats were built (see map) - yet another sign of the formalisation of leisure with the growth of Melbourne and the suburbanisation of Heidelberg.

This account has not so far, however, done justice to all views of the Yarra at this time. To do that we must glance at the great projects for its improvement which began to be put forward early in this century.

Improving the Yarra

"What the Thames is to London the Yarra will one day be to Melbourne, but it is a far cry to perfection".

Donald MacDonald in the
Australasian, 10 April 1909

Donald MacDonald contrasted what he saw as the "splendid improvement of the lower reaches" with what amounted to "a huge object-lesson in national neglect" - the failure to improve "the picturesque upper reaches of the Yarra."

Two main views of what should be done had emerged by the time he was writing. On the one hand Mr. W. Thwaites, of the Board of Works had put forward a plan of extraordinary boldness: to dam the Yarra at Station Street (a little to the west of what is now the Chandler Highway), so creating a great lake across the flats of the Chandler flood plain up to Templestowe.⁶¹ It would have been a return to the remote geological past. Mr Thwaites saw it as leading to great practical advantages: the removal of flood danger, the flushing away of health menacing rubbish, the scouring of silt (thus doing away with the need to dredge), and the creation of a supply of hydro-electric power. And, of course, a beautiful pleasure resort would have been made - all this at the cost of only 200,000 pounds.⁶²

On the other hand, Mr Catani, engineer-in-chief of the Department of Public Works, put forward a more modest proposal, although one still large in concept, especially since it involved straitening and widening the lower river as well as other alterations. Above Grange Road (the Chandler Highway) Mr Catani's scheme was conservative. Up to Heidelberg bridge (Banksia Street) he thought that "the picturesque banks still covered with native vegetation should be left in their present condition",⁶³ but a strip of land, 2 chains wide, should be acquired on either side of the river from Dight's Falls to Heidelberg to enable the construction of two drives. Catani hoped that "suitable areas would also be purchased from time to time for recreation reserves": he did not envisage continuous parkland along the Yarra. Snags and some reefs should be removed from the river (de-snagging was to prove no small undertaking) and three locks made: the first at Dight's Falls, the second at rapids near Willsmere and the third about two miles further up⁶⁴ (within the boundaries of the present Heidelberg). Thus the river would be made navigable up to Templestowe.

It is not possible to retell here the story of the debate on these proposals and the variations and elaborations upon them. But a number of points can be made about it, not only in order to clarify perceptions of the riverlands and their value at the time but also to anticipate some later perceptions and modern divergencies in thinking.

It should be mentioned at the outset that many participants in the debate were naturally concerned with the "practical", "concrete" benefits claimed for the schemes, whether for the community at large, their own smaller community, or themselves. "Practical" benefits included clearly defined commercial ones but also extended into the less well defined, for example, the widely held belief that the "hygienic blessing of pure country air" would help prevent "physical degeneration" and its outcome - "moral decadence."⁶⁵ The valley of the Yarra beyond the inner suburbs was seen as one of the few spots in Melbourne where this air was available.⁶⁶ (The river flats of Heidelberg were to be referred to as "lungs" of the city.⁶⁷)

At an extraordinarily large meeting of the Alphington and Ivanhoe Progress Society in January, 1909, the President of the A.N.A., an organisation very active at this time in the movement to improve the Yarra, pointed out that this work was "only a branch of a larger movement for extending parks and reserves."⁶⁸ This was very true. It was a time when pride in the development of the city was balanced by fear of the social consequences of that development and a sense

that the people needed access to unspoilt countryside - and not just for its air. National parks were being carved out in Victoria, as in other comparable regions of the industrialised world, and smaller regional or local reserves were being added to the stock of those set aside for the public in the nineteenth century. Some of those engaged in the debate early this century wanted a National Park along the Yarra, one not limited to the Yarra Bend area,⁶⁹ and they thus anticipated the call for such a National Park in 1962 by many decades. Early in the century, however, it seems that the conflicts of interest which are so marked now, did not appear so strongly in the case of the Yarra Valley.

This is not to say that there were not many disputes: indeed, as was pointed out, people were not able to agree on what scheme was best,⁷⁰ and this helped bring about a virtual stalemate. But on some issues there were not the confrontations we would expect today. The benefit of drives on either side of the river does not appear to have been much queried (although further research might qualify this). In 1929, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, envisaging green waterways for Heidelberg, planned Parkways for the Yarra, Darebin and Plenty⁷¹: it was more a matter, it seems, of where the boulevards should go than whether or not they were desirable. Discussion, or lack of it, over the question of the amounts of land to be given to what are now quaintly termed "active" and "passive" recreation is also an interesting point. The 1929 planners, dismissing the idea of the Thwaites lake, saw the Yarra of the future at Heidelberg as being used for aquatic sports, and the river flats laid out in sportsfields,⁷² and felt no need to justify this projection.

There was another view. Was it not so strong yet that it did not need to be refuted? In 1909, the Age, or one of its writers, in calling for a National Park along the Yarra, urged that the central conception of such a park involved the preservation of "primitive nature".⁷³ This writer appears to have wanted, whether on the existing banks of the Yarra or on those of the Thwaites lake, the restoration of the early forest "which lovers of the picturesque still find further upstream at Warrandyte and at Warburton".⁷⁴ The writer was not aware that the flora of the Yarra changes and that what was "natural" or indigenous in one place was not in another. But what is really significant here was the call for the "working out on a large scale of a system of landscape gardening founded on the natural beauties of the bush."⁷⁵ Perhaps there was no conflict at this stage with those who wanted playing fields; perhaps this new style of planting was to be limited to the bank.

But a slightly earlier article in the Age, along the same lines, had built up a picture of

Roads meandering through sylvan shaded groves, here dipping into bosky fern glades, there rising to the crest of any of a score of hillocks, and commanding pleasant views ... and on holidays it is easy to imagine the roads alive with vehicles, every grove and dell and glade tenanted with merry picnic parties; and the flowing river, gay with countless boats ...⁷⁶

This does not exclude the possibility of sportsfields and the like, but clearly most of the Park was to be recreated bushland, in which exotic plants were not to be grown.⁷⁷

The debate calls for much more research before its full nature can be revealed. What does seem clear is the striking enthusiasm for change amongst those speaking up at the time, whether for the Thwaites or Catani schemes or some variation on them. Was there anyone to speak up for the riverlands of Heidelberg and district as they were? Immediately after the announcement of the Thwaites lake project, "Kewite" wrote in to the Argus urging that the lake should not be made: he pointed out that the pasture of the flats was excellent, and that the area was already a pleasure ground. He wanted the area's "natural loveliness" retained, dreading that a "dismal makeshift" for nature would be imposed on the new scenery.⁷⁸ (He presumably would not have wanted the return of "primitive" nature in the form of artificially created bushland either, although we can't be sure of this.) He appealed for the retention of the status quo also because the district was a "happy hunting ground of artists and naturalists." We have already seen that he was right about the artists, and he was also right about the naturalists. The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, founded in 1880, made many excursions to Heidelberg.⁷⁹ He did not point to the importance of some of the art produced at Heidelberg - that of the Heidelberg School for example - but this is hardly surprising, since those painters had not yet achieved their great popularity.

Investigation of the degree of, and reasons for, support for the status quo or for grand projects for the improvement of the Yarra remains to be made. Perhaps most people wanted to see the river rid of its snags so that swimming and boating could be made safer. This was achieved by the MMBW which, between 1924 and 1930, removed 24,413 snags from the Yarra.⁸⁰ Yet even this may not have been without its drawbacks: W.S. Kent Hughes claimed (1927) that the de-snagging was causing the alluvial banks of the river to erode at

three times the previous rate.⁸¹ Mr Kent Hughes was writing in support of the Thwaites Lake, the idea of which, he said, still evoked enthusiasm at times of big floods.⁸²

But Mr Thwaites' lake was never made, nor was Mr Catani's scheme carried out in its entirety. Only part of the great river drives were constructed and the Heidelberg one was in no place as close to the river as Catani and his supporters had envisaged it. Nevertheless, The Boulevard at Heidelberg was eventually built - a product of this time of great projects for the betterment of Melbourne.

"A happy Hunting Ground of Artists"

When the railway reached Eltham, Walter Withers left Heidelberg to live there, but artists continued to visit or to live in the district. No doubt many were attracted by the beauties of the landscape and for those who came to live, the cheapness of buying land must also have often had something to do with it.⁸³

A number of artists came to live in Alphington and Ivanhoe at this time. They included W.B. McInnes and Willian Frater in Lucerne Crescent, Alphington, and Norman McGeorge and Napier Waller in Ivanhoe. Other people of artistic interests lived in the area. They did not, however, form a colony as had earlier groups in Heidelberg. These artists were very different in interests, style and commitment.

McInnes, for example, was a well known traditionalist portrait painter and drawing master at the National Gallery School, who also made paintings of the local scenery in the manner of the Impressionists,⁸⁴ while McGeorge, painter, lecturer and critic, was a modernist.⁸⁵ McInnes became a leading member of the Australian Academy of Art formed in 1937 - a body which became increasingly conservative; McGeorge was a leading member of the Contemporary Art Society which was, in part, formed as an opposition group to the Academy.⁸⁶

McGeorge made a particularly important contribution to the history of the riverlands for his house became a centre for modernist artists and others of similar interests to meet and discuss art, (and the house still plays a part in Melbourne's art life under the ownership of the University of Melbourne).

But this house also made a contribution to the landscape. It was constructed in 1911, designed by the great architect Desbrowe Annear,⁸⁷ whose other superb houses in Heidelberg do not stand in such close relation to the water. The McGeorge house is beautifully sited above the confluence of the Yarra and

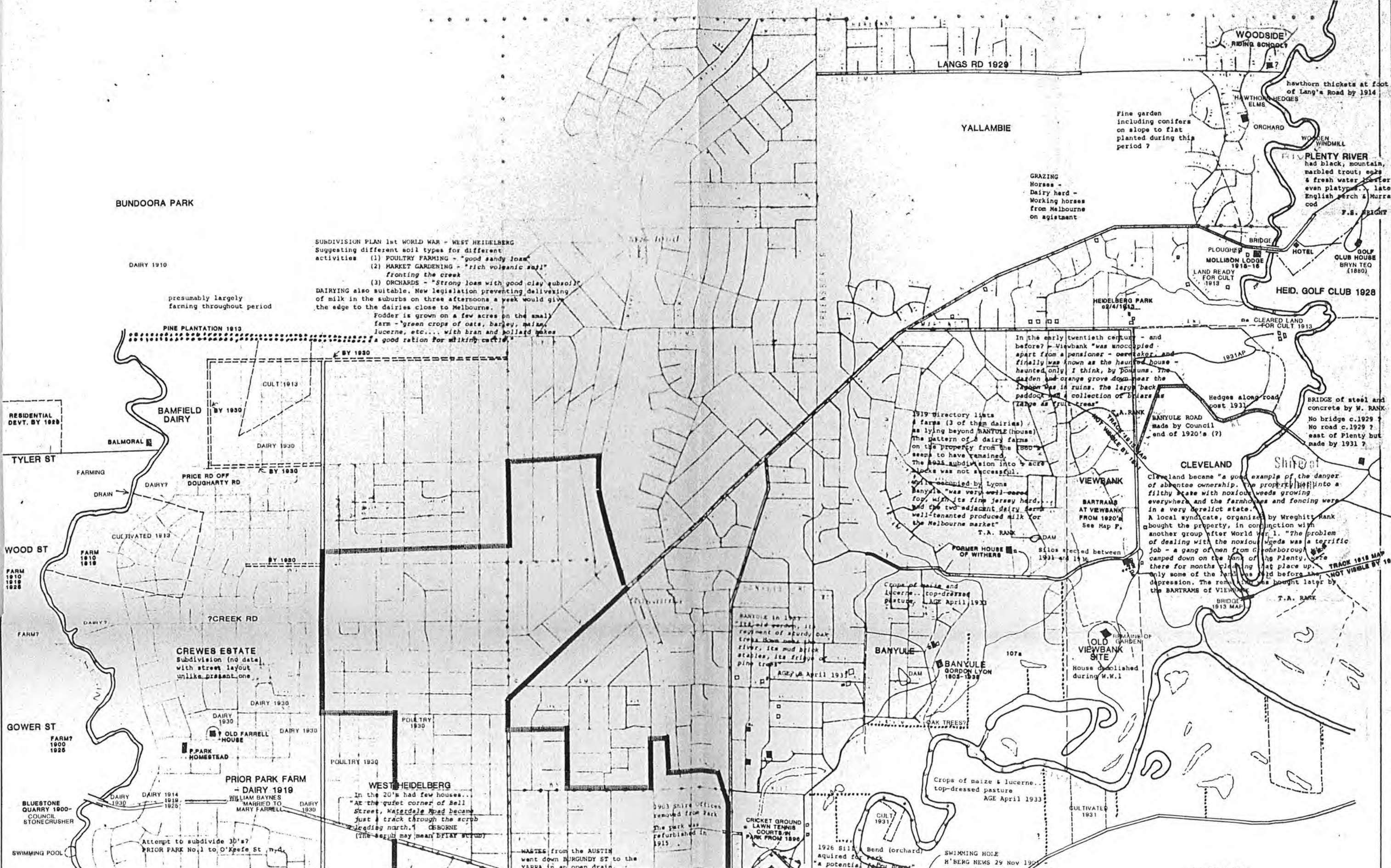
the Darebin. Like the early houses of the "gentlemen" in their light colours, and unlike some more modern houses, it does not attempt to merge into its surroundings. It is distinct from them, although it grows with exquisite rightness from its eminence.

The garden (designed by the water colourist Blamire Young)⁸⁸ is not naturalistic, with its hedges garlanding the hill slope. Not far along, the Napier Waller house (designed by Waller and his builder and constructed 1922-3) is also half timbered, and, in the area further in there are also other half-timbered house in related syle.⁸⁹ In Lucerne Crescent, across the Darebin, McInnes also used Annear to design his fine house.⁹⁰

It is really only the McGeorge and Waller houses that show up from the Darebin valley but the gardens of many, partially native and partially exotic, give a strong character to the area.



Shire of Diamond Valley



LANGS RD 1929

YALLAMBIE

WOODSIDE
MILKING SCHOOL

HAWTHORN HEDGES
ELMS

Fine garden including conifers on slope to flat planted during this period?

PLENTY RIVER
had black, mountain, marbled trout, eels & fresh water eelsters even platypus. later English perch & Murray cod

GRAZING
Horses - Dairy herd - Working horses from Melbourne on adjacent

PLOUGHED
MOLLISON LODGE 1918-19
LAND READY FOR CULT 1918

GOLF HOUSE
BRYN TEO (1880)

HEID. GOLF CLUB 1928

HEIDELBERG PARK
02/4/1913

CLEARED LAND FOR CULT 1913

SUBDIVISION PLAN 1st WORLD WAR - WEST HEIDELBERG
Suggesting different soil types for different activities
(1) POULTRY FARMING - "good sandy loam"
(2) MARKET GARDENING - "rich volcanic soil" fronting the creek
(3) ORCHARDS - "Strong loam with good clay subsoil"
DAIRYING also suitable. New legislation preventing delivering of milk in the suburbs on three afternoons a week would give the edge to the dairies close to Melbourne.
Fodder is grown on a few acres on the small farm - green crops of oats, barley, maize, lucerne, etc... with bran and pollard cakes a good ration for milking cattle

In the early twentieth century - and before? - Viewbank "was unoccupied apart from a pensioner - caretaker, and finally was known as the haunted house - haunted only I think, by possums. The garden and orange grove down near the house was in ruins. The large back paddock had a collection of elms as 'Elms as fruit trees'

1919 Directory lists 4 farms (3 of them dairies) as lying beyond BANYULE (houses). The pattern of 3 dairy farms on the property from the 1880's seems to have remained. The 1925 subdivision into 4 acres blocks was not successful.

VIEWBANK
BARTRAMS AT VIEWBANK FROM 1920's
See Map F.

CLEVELAND
Cleveland became "a good example of the danger of absentee ownership. The property [was] into a filthy state with noxious weeds growing everywhere and the farmhouses and fencing were in a very derelict state. A local syndicate, organized by Wreghitt Rank bought the property, in conjunction with another group after World War 1. "The problem of dealing with the noxious weeds was a terrific job - a gang of men from Geelongborough camped down on the bank of the Plenty, were there for months clearing that place up. Only some of the trees had before the depression. The remainder was bought later by the BARTRAMS of VIEWBANK"

FORMER HOUSE OF WITHERS

Silos stacked between 1931-40 14 1/2

BANYULE in 1927 "ill old garden, its remnant of sturdy oak trees down near the river, its mud brick stables, its fringe of pine trees"

BANYULE GORDON LYON 1805-1889

OLD VIEWBANK SITE
House demolished during W.W.I

Crops of maize & lucerne... top-dressed pasture AGE April 1933

CRICKET GROUND
LAWN TENNIS COURTS
PARK FROM 1896

1926 Silo Bend (orchard) acquired for park a potential...

SWIMMING HOLE
H'BERG NEWS 29 Nov 1901

BUNDOORA PARK

DAIRY 1910

presumably largely farming throughout period

PINE PLANTATION 1913

RESIDENTIAL DEVT. BY 1928

TYLER ST

WOOD ST

GOWER ST

BAMFIELD DAIRY

DAIRY 1930

CREWES ESTATE
Subdivision (no date) with street layout unlike present one

DAIRY 1930

OLD FARRELL HOUSE

PRIOR PARK FARM - DAIRY 1919

WILLIAM BAYNES MARRIED TO MARY FARRELL DAIRY 1930

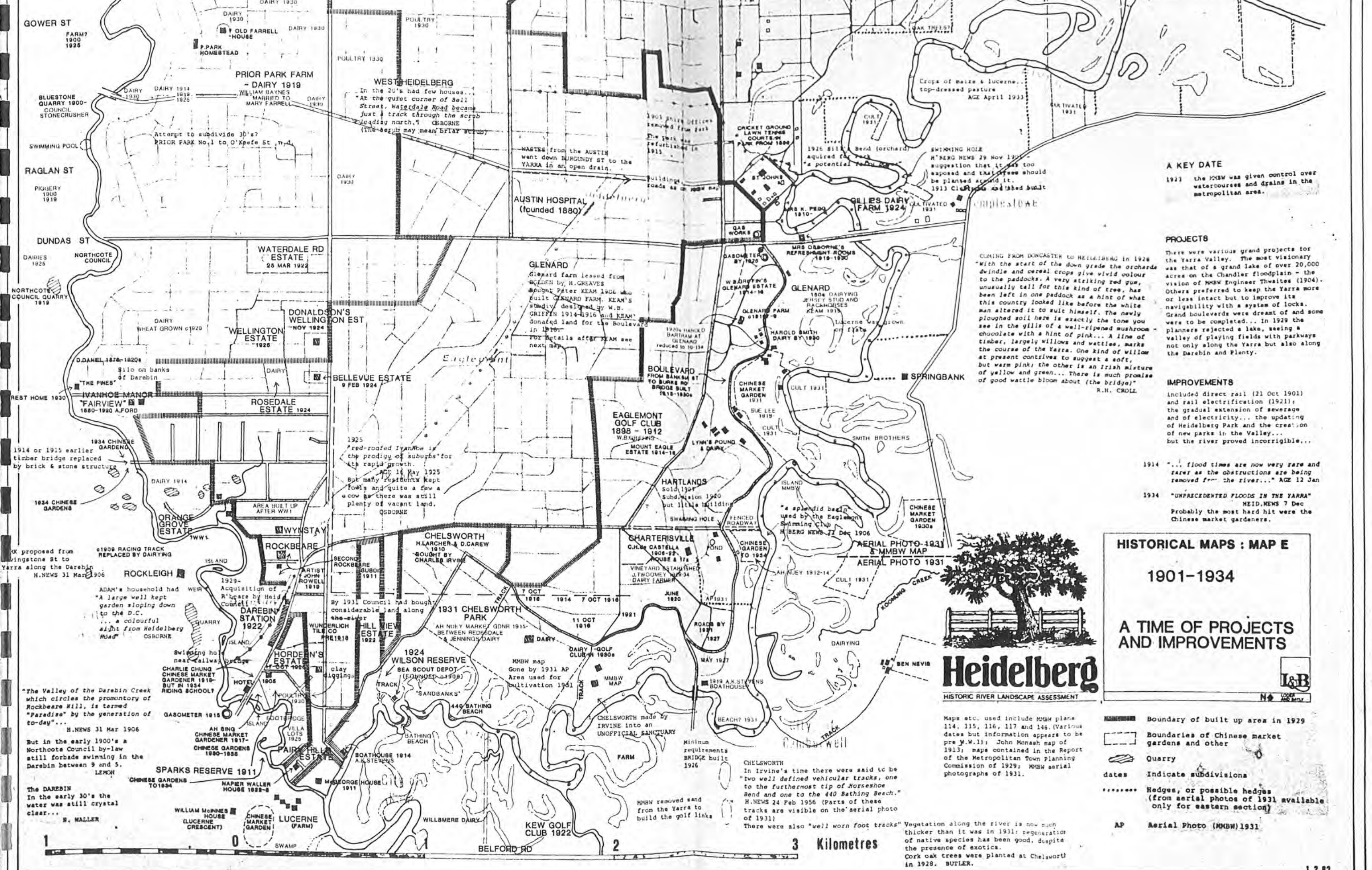
WEST HEIDELBERG

In the 20's had few houses... "At the quiet corner of Bell Street, Waterdale Road became just a track through the scrub leading north." (The scrub may mean BRYN TEO)

WASTES from the AUSTIN went down BURGUNDY ST to the YARRA in an open drain.

1903 Shire Offices removed from Park The park was refurbished in 1915

TRACK 1918 MAP NOT VISIBLE BY 1921



A KEY DATE
 1922 the MMBW was given control over watercourses and drains in the metropolitan area.

PROJECTS
 There were various grand projects for the Yarra Valley. The most visionary was that of a grand lake of over 20,000 acres on the Chandler floodplain - the vision of MMBW Engineer Thwaites (1904). Others preferred to keep the Yarra more or less intact but to improve its navigability with a system of locks. Grand boulevards were dreamt of and some were to be completed... In 1929 the planners rejected a lake, seeing a valley of playing fields with parkways not only along the Yarra but also along the Darebin and Plenty.

IMPROVEMENTS
 included direct rail (21 Oct 1901) and rail electrification (1921); the gradual extension of sewerage and of electricity... the updating of Heidelberg Park and the creation of new parks in the Valley... but the river proved incorrigible...

1914 "... flood times are now very rare and rarer as the obstructions are being removed from the river..." AGE 12 Jan
 1934 "UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS IN THE YARRA" HEID. NEWS 7 Dec
 Probably the most hard hit were the Chinese market gardeners.

CULING FROM DONCASTER TO HEIDELBERG IN 1928 "with the start of the down grade the orchards dwindle and cereal crops give vivid colour to the paddocks. A very striking red gum, unusually tall for this kind of tree, has been left in one paddock as a hint of what this country looked like before the white man altered it to suit himself. The newly ploughed soil here is exactly the tone you see in the gills of a well-ripened mushroom - chocolate with a hint of pink... A line of timber, largely willows and wattles, marks the course of the Yarra. One kind of willow at present contrives to suggest a soft, but warm pink; the other is an Irish mixture of yellow and green... There is much promise of good wattle bloom about (the bridge)" R.H. CROLL

HISTORICAL MAPS : MAP E

1901-1934

A TIME OF PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS



Heidelberg
 HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Maps etc. used include MMBW plans 114, 115, 116, 117 and 148. (Various dates but information appears to be pre M.W.1); John Monash map of 1913; maps contained in the Report of the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission of 1929; MMBW aerial photographs of 1931.

CHELSWORTH
 In Irvine's time there were said to be "two well defined vehicular tracks, one to the furthest tip of Horseshoe Bend and one to the 440 Bathing Beach." H.NEWS 24 Feb 1956 (Parts of these tracks are visible on the aerial photo of 1931)
 There were also "well worn foot tracks" Vegetation along the river is now much thicker than it was in 1931; regeneration of native species has been good, despite the presence of exotics. Cork oak trees were planted at Chelsworth in 1928. BUTLER.

- Boundary of built up area in 1929
- Boundaries of Chinese market gardens and other
- Quarry
- dates Indicate subdivisions
- Hedges, or possible hedges (from aerial photos of 1931 available only for eastern section)
- Aerial Photo (MMBW) 1931

PART VI - MAP F. 1934 -

"UTILITARIANS" AND CONSERVATIONISTS

It is not possible, given the time and space available, to write a real history of the riverlands during this period. It has been a time rich in events, many of them intricate and at the same time often of much more than local significance. This section will be limited to making some points about what seem to be central features of this history. The map will indicate many of the issues which affected Heidelberg during the period.

Heidelberg becomes more suburban

Until after World War II ended areas of Heidelberg still remained remarkably untouched by the advancing suburbs. When change finally came, it was very marked in some places - and especially in its impact on the riverlands. The quiet farms of West Heidelberg disappeared: the Housing Commission built flats which could hardly have contrasted more with the previous landscape. Olympic Park was a useful acquisition for the new residents, but in some other places land close to the Darebin was deemed appropriate for factories (instead of their being placed inland with the housing close to the Creek). Above Rockbeare the Darebin was apparently little valued, except as a drainage channel and rubbish receptacle.

It was different to the south and east: the Yarra valley had always been valued for its scenery. As we have observed, much of the land with views over the valley had been subdivided before 1934, but few houses had been built then; in the 1950's the hillsides filled up. The outlook of the residents was to change to the east as Bulleen, Doncaster and Templestowe were also transformed into suburb. But the extensiveness of the flood prone flats meant that very few buildings were put up on the wide valley floor. What was more, large areas could be called rus in urbe : close to the very heart of Heidelberg the Flemings ran their Friesian dairy herd¹ with the Gillies' farm just across the river, and Clarendon Eyre, Banyule and Viewbank survived as estates, the latter two leading the eye on to the still rural landscapes to the north and east.

When it was announced in 1958 that Stanhill proposed to subdivide a large part of Banyule (the uplands), and it emerged that classification of this land as "greenbelt" meant nothing, some Heidelberg citizens decided to act. The Save the Yarra League (later to become the Yarra Valley Conservation League) led the protest.² This did not mark the beginning of the conservationist

movement in Heidelberg: there were active conservationists in the district long before (as we have already glimpsed) but 1958 saw the launching of a major movement for conservation in the district.

Conservationists and "Utilitarians"

We all know - or think we know - what conservationists are. In using utilitarian, I am making a play on the word. As an historical term it is associated with Jeremy Bentham and his idea that the test of a good social policy was to judge it by its utility, which he defined as that which produces the greatest good or happiness of the greatest number, each person in the society counting as one and no more than one, meaning that the opinion of the majority should be the determining factor in all public decisions. But utilitarian is also often used loosely to mean a person who is devoted to mere utility or material interests, disregarding questions of beauty, for example. Lastly, I am also using the word to mean those who see river valleys as fine sites for utilities - for drains, sewers, powerlines, freeways, rubbish dumps and sources of soil or sand - and other such aids to modern living, necessary or not. I extend utilities, perhaps unfairly, to include playing fields and other sports areas which destroyed the old character of the riverlands.

At this point opposition of conservationists and "utilitarians" is quite clear : these last decades have been ones of conflict after conflict over river pollution, freeways and the like. But when we go back to the historical meaning it would be wrong to see conservationists and utilitarians as opposed on the question of utility, as against that of utilities. In a democracy we are all naturally inclined to imply, if not always argue openly, that it is our policy which will be productive of the greatest good of the greatest number, and that the majority is on our side. Sometimes, it might be truer to think that the majority will, sooner or later, be on our side. It is, in any case, often difficult to know what the majority wants (has it really decided?) and there is always the problem that the majority quite often changes its mind. Setting aside these difficulties, it is surely true that conservationists can appeal to utility as much as those favouring the use of the river valleys for utilitarian ends.

The conservationists started off as a small group in our society, as in other similar societies elsewhere, but they have been able to mobilize or change public opinion and to create movements which made the politicians sit up and even forced some of the unwilling amongst them to act. The conservationists are as justified, then, in appealing to the principle of utility as the proponents of utilities are.

The importance of the conservationist movement in Heidelberg

The development and activities of the conservation movement have been of very great importance in recent Australian history, as they have been elsewhere in the world. It is not possible here to investigate fully the importance of the movement in Heidelberg and the surrounding district to Victoria, but it is clear that it was of great significance. The citizens of Heidelberg proved to be good fighters and it so happened that major conservation issues of the time were of the greatest direct importance to them: river pollution and freeways were right on their doorstep.

There are many questions which would need to be answered in any history of the recent conservation movement. What role was played by Heidelberg people? How important were Heidelberg's riverlands in the conflicts of the time? One feature of the story is how often the purely local was transformed into regional, or State issues. Thus the pollution of the Yarra, say at Burke Road Bridge, was linked ultimately with the pollution of waterways as a whole. Another example: in 1961, there was an appeal to make Chelsworth a National Park and wildlife sanctuary.³ The next year there was a call for a Yarra Valley National Park between Dight's Falls and the Plenty by the National Trust of Victoria, the Victoria National Parks Association, the Save the Yarra Valley League and the Ivanhoe and Camberwell River and Parklands Protection League. Was there any but the loosest connection between the two appeals?⁴ At any rate, we can note the shades of the old movement for a National Park appearing in both.

Ivanhoe people - some of them - had long been concerned with the beauty of their surroundings - how to protect and improve them. At Chelsworth, Mr Irvine ran his dairy herd but allowed free access to the river: encroachments by the Ivanhoe Golf Club on to the banks were much objected to.⁵ People seem much more liable to revolt against the removal, or threat of removal, of privileges or rights, than they are to rise up in the hope of something they have never had.

This point may help explain why many Heidelberg people were so active in the conservationist cause. Many lived in the area, or came to live there, because they valued the unspoilt landscapes of the riverlands. Their movement came when the beauty was still manifest but was rapidly diminishing, being degraded or under threat. Other districts did not have such pleasures to offer (sometimes because their natural landscapes had not yet been "discovered".) The "right" to swim Heidelberg's streams, or to fish them, was also one which people found was simply taken away. In January

1972, the MMBW was directed by the government to stop people bathing where the water was considered to be dangerous.⁶ But, indeed, many people had long since stopped swimming in the Yarra: many people, not very old, had seen the rapid degeneration of the streams (like Max Kirwan, who in 1972, when he was aged 45, said that the "Yarra's water has turned from its natural grey green to a yellow murk" since his childhood.)⁷ Others noted the disappearance of loved creatures, like the platypuses.⁸ People, in short, saw a world being lost to them, a world which those in less fortunate suburbs had never enjoyed as part of their everyday life.

In the early years of the century the wave of enthusiasm for "improving" the Yarra valley seems to have been stimulated by the grand projects put forward at this time, particularly that of the Thwaites Lake. People then often remarked that time was running out to acquire the parklands that growing Melbourne needed, but the movement that began in the 1950's was much more desperate. Time really had run out in some places and the overall increasing degeneration of the environment was visible to the naked eye. The conservationists were provoked into action time after time by conditions and actions which they regarded as unwarranted and intolerable. Developers were a threat to potential parkland and business enterprises and private individuals polluted the streams; but the most important provocations came from government institutions: the big utilities- the MMBW, the SEC and CRB, and sometimes from local government. These confrontations between the "people" and the bureaucracy of government then seem to have led on to the formulation of grand projects, as happened in the case of Chelsworth discussed above.

There are other comparisons to be made with the earlier movement to improve the Yarra. In recent times competition for the available space for recreation has become much greater. As much of the riverlands in Heidelberg and in adjoining districts has been converted into golf courses, or ovals and other sporting facilities, the amount of land for walking, bird-watching and other so-called "passive" activities has been drastically decreased, especially in terms of land where a sense of rural space can be obtained, once so easy. The Banyule flats provide a good example. Quite apart from rumours of using them as a rubbish dump,⁹ or thoughts of crossing them with a freeway,¹⁰ there was, even after they had been bought on the basis of conservationist arguments (according to the Heidelberg News) vigorous opposition to their development as nature reserves - the implication was that they should be used for sports.¹¹ In the event, there was a compromise. At Ivanhoe, much earlier, most

of Chelsworth went for active recreation and the bitter struggle over Ivanhoe's playing fields is another episode in the struggle of conservationists to preserve what is only a small remnant of the former landscape.

Many of the changes had taken place, or started to take place, before this generation's time, but change now continued or accelerated. It was not limited to river pollution or the disappearance of animals and birds. The wetlands and the very surface of the land were altered. Ground was levelled not only for playing fields but even on farms.¹² The rich alluvial soil was stripped. Drains were cut (as they had been from the early days of settlement), to drain superfluous water from the billabongs,¹³ or the billabongs were reshaped.¹⁴ Or they, and often swampland were filled with rubbish.¹⁵ It is no wonder, seeing how many of these manipulations were destructive of beauty, that some of the local conservationists dreamed of replanting the valley of the Yarra with bush. The Age in 1909 had, as described in the previous section, painted a picture of a Yarra valley re-afforested with native plants, but with not much regard for what we would now call ecology. Members of the present conservation movement are acquiring much greater sophistication of view, although this is not necessarily shared by all of those involved in landscaping the river valleys. The restoration of the Warringal wetland, however, was a great achievement for the conservationists of Heidelberg, an achievement surely with much more than local significance. On the other side of the City local people rallied, not only to protect Rockbeare Park from the depredations of the MMBW, but to create a park which crossed the Darebin into Northcote, thus helping point the way to a unified policy for the riverlands - still most unfortunately lacking.

As knowledge of ecology increases so established ways of designing and maintaining the riverine landscapes is liable to change. The desirability of de-snagging the river makes a good example. Few if any people would have been aware that this could be so destructive of river banks and the vegetation on them, in the days before the clearance began. Donald MacDonald, writing in 1909, had been distressed by the idea that de-snagging was thought by some to require the removal of large trees on the banks, but he did not question de-snagging itself.¹⁶ In 1977, on the other hand, Howard Jarman, the well-known naturalist, was querying the whole operation, and not only because of the damage to banks, soil, living trees and the river bottom. He saw snags and dead trees as important components of the life and character of the riverlands.

Logs in the stream help to arrest the current and thus erosion and provide shelter for fish and platypus. Standing dead trees are part of the rustic scene and provide roosting sites and resting hollows for native birds and mammals.¹⁷

(Probably not many will object to the retention of dead trees, but many of those who wish to boat will no doubt want de-snagging.)

Naturalists have not only visited Heidelberg but chosen to live there and have made contributions to our understanding of eco-systems and of Heidelberg's in particular. But the conservationist movement has not only disseminated information on how nature operates. Tony Dingle has pointed out that the movement has been accompanied by what he sees as "one of the most remarkable transformations" in Victoria's European history: a change in values - a rejection of old beliefs about progress, especially the view that economic progress must be unhindered.¹⁸ This change did not occur early in the century. The improvement of the Yarra seems to have been seen as in harmony with material progress, even helping it: Thwaites Lake was seen as cheap as well as promising great economic benefits.¹⁹ The present movement is often prepared to forgo them.

Dingle also points out that the movement to save the past came much later than efforts to save bushland²⁰ (The National Trust was founded in 1956 while the first National Parks had been established decades before.) Again it would be interesting to analyse Heidelberg's position in this development. Heidelberg's was a special case, because the bushland had in large part vanished, but not so completely that it was impossible to think of recovering it in places. There was a nostalgia for the vanished bushland, but at the same time many conservationists valued the old buildings of the society that had destroyed the primeval forest. The concern for conservation of the past was for long usually limited to buildings and perhaps their gardens or immediate setting: the broad historic landscape did not attract such interest. Even now landscape history is scarcely developed as a discipline in this country. It seems likely, therefore, that Heidelberg's inauguration of a study of its historic riverlands landscape will be seen as a significant new step - or one of a number in this field.

The precise role that Heidelberg's conservation movement has played in the broader movement remains to be assessed. Clearly it did play a role, for the pollution of the Yarra and the question of freeways in the Yarra valley were central issues in the development of conservation into a major political issue - and in the consequent changes in government policy. Conservationists of

Heidelberg and the riverlands they defended certainly had something to do with the setting up of the Environment Protection Authority, with the new planning policies for the Yarra Valley and with the re-thinking of the whole question of freeways, for example.

What role did the conservationists play in the making of today's riverlands? Again, a detailed study is needed before this question can be properly answered. But the map illustrates to some extent the victories and defeats of conservationists and "utilitarians" in the battles of recent decades. The conservationists won some, they lost some, and had to accept compromises on some, but the riverlands as we see them today would have been very different without them.

Art and the Yarra Valley

There have been great moments in the history of Australian art at Heidelberg. Mt. Eagle and Charterisville are names which will always be associated with the Australian Impressionists. In a different way, at Ivanhoe, the McGeorge house became a centre for the modernist movement.

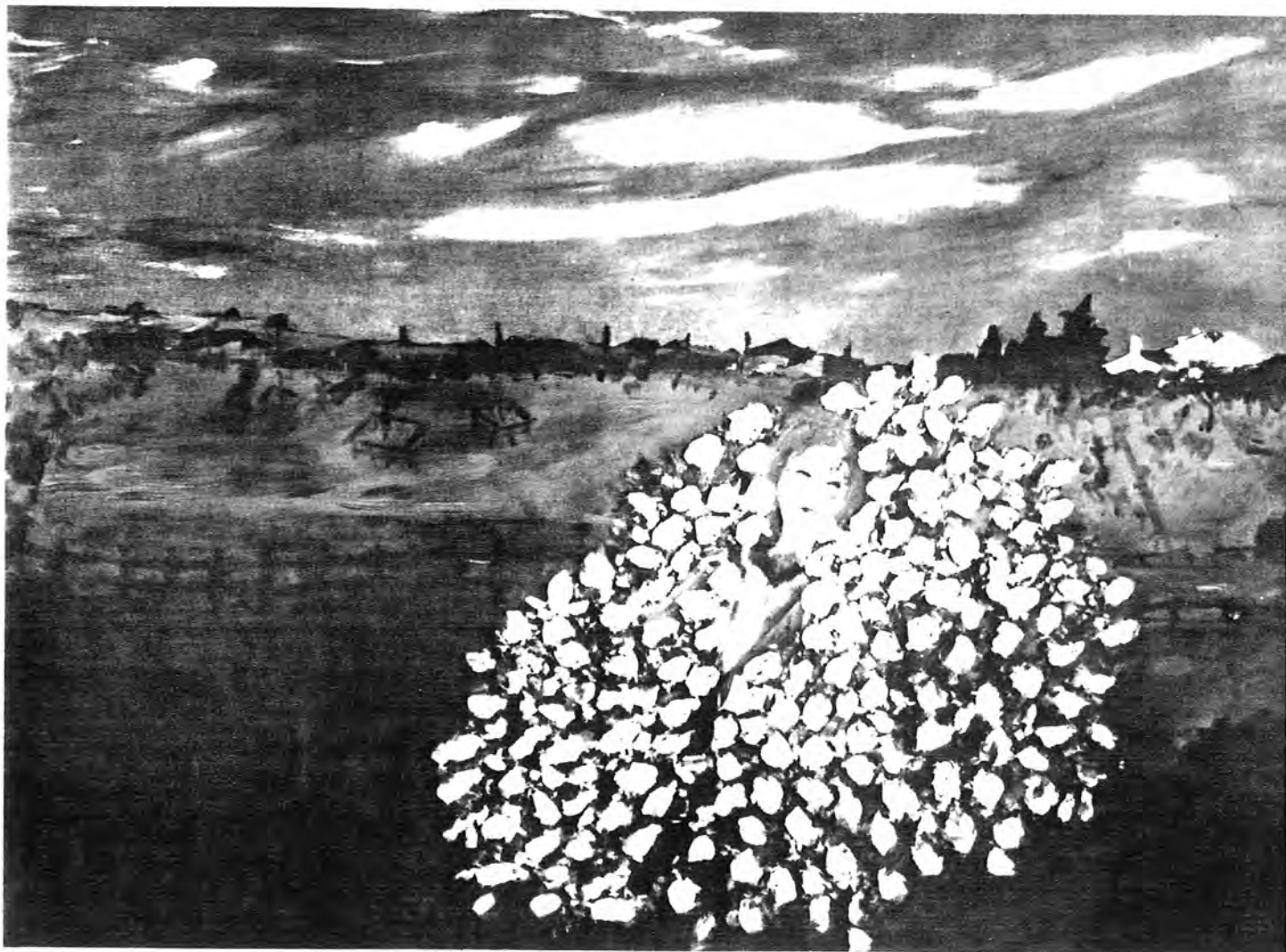
Norman McGeorge had represented the less radical wing of the Contemporary Art Society which had been founded in 1938. John Reed was one of its more radical leaders.²¹ In the 1930's he and his wife Sunday were drawn to the Yarra valley, to an old farmhouse with its pastures stretching down to the Yarra, opposite Heidelberg in Templestowe. "Heide" was to become a place internationally known in modern art - a centre for radical artists, and intellectuals - and for jazz musicians.²² With Mt. Eagle and Charterisville it forms a remarkable constellation in the firmament of Australia's culture.

At Heide, in the 1940's, Sidney Nolan painted two landscapes which, in Richard Haese's view, made the next great leap in the painting of the Australian landscape after that made by the Heidelberg School.²³ One is of Heidelberg itself as it was at the time - suburban Heidelberg with a train crossing the railway bridge and St. John's down by the river. The other - Rosa Mutabilis - shows Sunday Reed within a favorite rose of hers, and in the background, the Impressionists' pastoral golden hill, by now an archetypal landscape in the Australian imagination, painted in a new style.

The Yarra

Despite our manipulations rivers still have their say from time to time, most noticeably at times of flood. The Yarra has cut a new course not far south of Banksia Street Bridge, creating an island between the new and old course,²⁴ and showing that it was still capable of making billabongs in the long term. In 1971 flooding caused serious erosion at the Wilson Reserve,²⁵ although this was an area where Man's tampering with the river may also have had its effect.

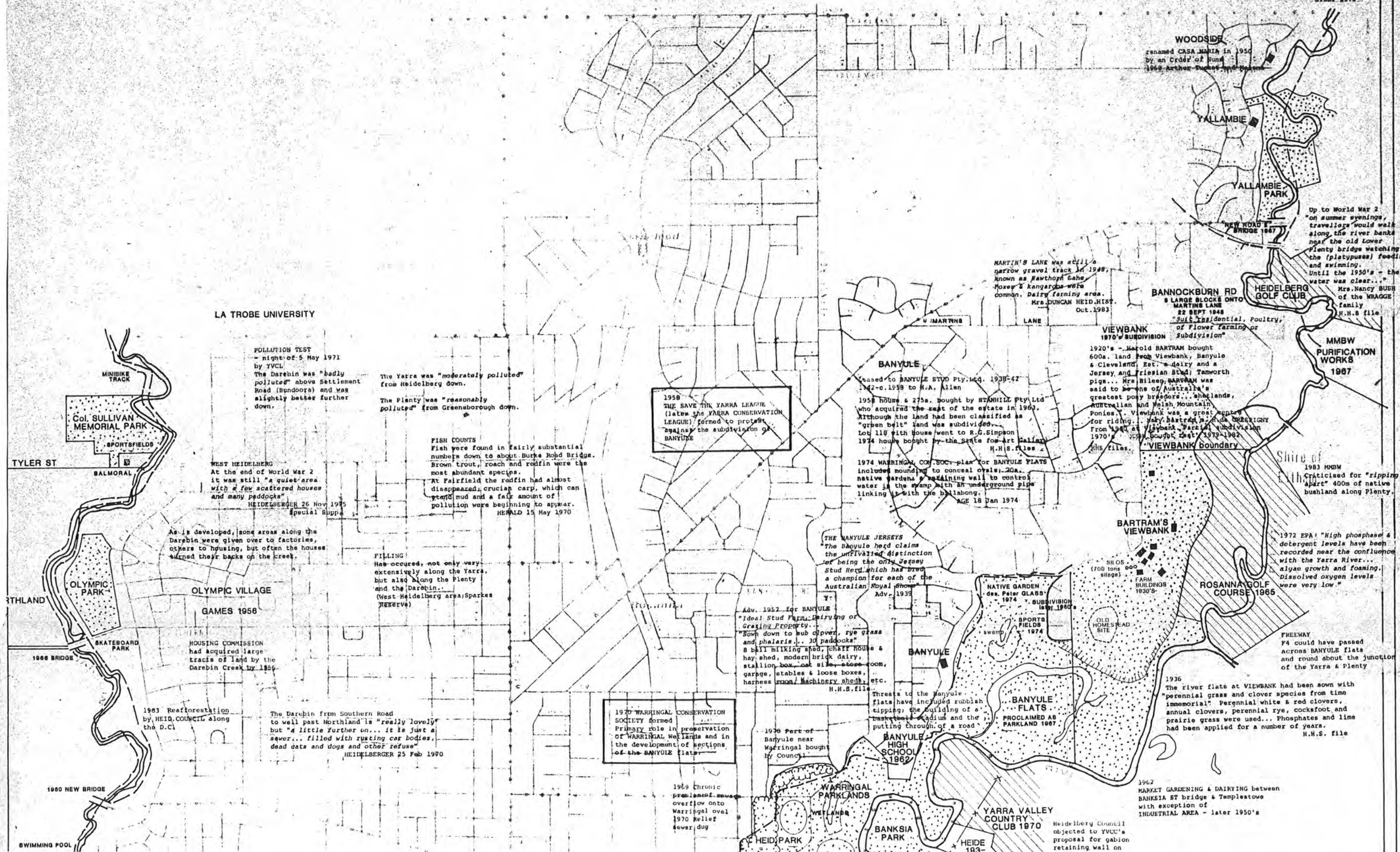
Some thought that tampering elsewhere would reduce flooding, as optimists had thought before 1934, but the MMBW has stated that construction of the Upper Yarra Dam has not reduced the severity of floods in the river's lower reaches.²⁶ If so the Yarra will yet again provide us with the drama of riverlands sheeted with a major flood, recalling Thwaites' dream of 1904 of a man-made lake and, millenia back, the great water dammed by lava flows.



SIDNEY NOLAN
 "ROSA MUTABILIS"
 Reid Collection, Heide I

Shire of Diamond Valley

PLENTY did not have a long history of flooding but with rapid urbanisation runoff is leading to problems
STUDY 1978



LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

POLLUTION TEST - night of 5 May 1971 by IVCL. The Darebin was "badly polluted" above Settlement Road (Bundoora) and was slightly better further down.

The Yarra was "moderately polluted" from Heidelberg down. The Plenty was "reasonably polluted" from Greensborough down.

FISH COUNTS. Fish were found in fairly substantial numbers down to about Burke Road Bridge. Brown trout, roach and rodfin were the most abundant species. At Fairfield the rodfin had almost disappeared, crucian carp, which can tolerate mud and a fair amount of pollution were beginning to appear. HERALD 15 May 1970

WEST HEIDELBERG. At the end of World War 2 it was still "a quiet area with a few scattered houses and many paddocks". HEIDELBERGER 26 Nov 1975 Special Supp.

As it developed, some areas along the Darebin were given over to factories, others to housing, but often the houses turned their backs on the creek.

FILLING. Has occurred, not only very extensively along the Yarra, but also along the Plenty and the Darebin. (West Heidelberg area; Sparkes Reserve)

OLYMPIC VILLAGE GAMES 1956

HOUSING COMMISSION had acquired large tracts of land by the Darebin Creek by 1956.

1963 Reafforestation by HEID. COUNCIL along the D.C.

The Darebin from Southern Road to well past Northland is "really lovely" but "a little further on... it is just a sewer... filled with rusting car bodies, dead cats and dogs and other refuse". HEIDELBERGER 25 Feb 1970

1958 THE SAVE THE YARRA LEAGUE (later the YARRA CONSERVATION LEAGUE) formed to protest against the subdivision of BANYULE

Adv. 1957 for BANYULE "Ideal Stud Farm, Dairying or Grazing Property...". Sown down to sub clover, rye grass and phalaris... 30 paddocks. 8 bull milking sheds, 2000 cows & hay shed, modern brick dairy, stallion box, oat silo, store room, garage, stables & loose boxes, harness room, Machinery shed, etc. H.N.S. file

1970 WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY formed. Primary role in preservation of WARRINGAL wetlands and in the development of sections of the BANYULE flats.

1969 Chronic problems of sewage overflow onto Warringal oval. 1970 Relief sewer dug

BANYULE. Leased to BANYULE STUD Pty. Ltd. 1938-42. 1942-c. 1958 to H.A. Allen. 1958 house & 275a. bought by STANHILL Pty Ltd who acquired the rest of the estate in 1960. Although the land had been classified as "green belt" land was subdivided. Lot 118 with house went to R.G. Simpson. 1974 house bought by the State for Art Gallery. H.N.S. files. 1974 WARRINGAL CON. SOC. plan for BANYULE FLATS included mounding to conceal ovals, 20a. native gardens & retaining wall to control water in the swamp with an underground pipe linking it with the ballabong. AGE 18 Jan 1974

THE BANYULE JERSEYS. The Banyule herd claims the unrivalled distinction of being the only Jersey Stud Herd which has bred a champion for each of the Australian Royal Shows. Adv. 1938

NATIVE GARDEN. des. Peter GLASS 1974. SUBDIVISION 1974

BANYULE FLATS. PROCLAIMED AS PARKLAND 1987

1970 Part of Banyule near Warringal bought by Council

BANYULE HIGH SCHOOL 1962

WARRINGAL PARKLANDS WETLANDS

BANKSIA PARK

YARRA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB 1970

VIEWBANK 1970's SUBDIVISION. 1920's Harold BARTRAM bought 600a. land from Viewbank, Banyule & Cleveland, Est. a dairy and a Jersey and Friesian Stud, Tamworth pigs... Mrs. Miley BARTRAM was said to be one of Australia's greatest pony breeders... shetlands, Australian and Welsh Mountain Ponies. Viewbank was a great center for riding... Mrs. Bartram's horse BREAGHNY from 1940 at Viewbank. Warrigal subdivision 1970's. Mrs. Miley BARTRAM 1970-1982. H.N.S. files. "VIEWBANK boundary"

BARTRAM'S VIEWBANK

SHOS (700 tons silage) FARM BUILDINGS 1930's

OLD HOMESTEAD SITE

ROSANNA GOLF COURSE 1966

1936 The river flats at VIEWBANK had been sown with "perennial grass and clover species from time immemorial". Perennial white & red clovers, annual clovers, perennial rye, cocksfoot and prairie grass were used... Phosphates and lime had been applied for a number of years. H.N.S. file

Heidelberg Council objected to YVCC's proposal for gabion retaining wall on

WOODSIDE renamed CASA MARIA in 1950 by an Order of Council 1950 Arthur Duggan and Deane

YALLAMBIE YALLAMBIE PARK

NEW ROAD BRIDGE 1967

BANNOCKBURN RD 8 LARGE BLOCKS ONTO MARTINS LANE 22 SEPT 1948. Suit Residential, Poultry, of Flower Farming or subdivision

HEIDELBERG GOLF CLUB Mrs. Nancy BUSH of the WRAGGE family H.N.S. file

Up to World War 2 on summer evenings, travellers would walk along the river banks near the old Lower Plenty bridge watching the (pistypuss) feeding and swimming. Until the 1950's - the water was clear... Mrs. Nancy BUSH of the WRAGGE family H.N.S. file

MMBW PURIFICATION WORKS 1967

1983 MMBW Criticised for "ripping apart" 400m of native bushland along Plenty.

1972 EPA! "High phosphate & detergent levels have been recorded near the confluence with the Yarra River... algal growth and foaming. Dissolved oxygen levels were very low."

FREEWAY F4 could have passed across BANYULE flats and round about the junction of the Yarra & Plenty

1962 MARKET GARDENING & DAIRYING between BANKSIA ST bridge & Templestowe with exception of INDUSTRIAL AREA - later 1950's

BWIMMING POOL

1966 BRIDGE

SKATEBOARD PARK

OLYMPIC PARK

Col. SULLIVAN MEMORIAL PARK

MINIBIKE TRACK

TYLER ST

BALMORAL

Northland

1966 BRIDGE

BWIMMING POOL

sewer... filled with rusting car bodies, dead cats and dogs and other refuse" HEIDELBERGER 25 Feb 1970

role in preservation of WARRINGAL Wetlands and in the development of sections of the BANYULE flats

1940 Part of Banyule near Warringal bought by Council

BANYULE HIGH SCHOOL 1962

1962 MARKET GARDENING & DAIRYING between BANKSIA ST bridge & Templestowe with exception of INDUSTRIAL AREA - later 1950's

Heidelberg Council objected to YVCC's proposal for gabion retaining wall on eroding left bank HEID 24 Oct 1983

WARRINGAL PARK The horse shows organized by Harold Bartram for charity "were recognized as the greatest outside the Royals" RIDER in H.H.S file

PROCHURE FOR HORSE SHOW & MONSTER CARNIVAL 18 Jan 1947: "The Pick of the Horses in the State Championship, Highland Dressing, Bathing Beauties, Perfect Man Competition"

May 1971 Objection to MMBW's work on the Darebin from Bell Street down to and including Rockbeare Park. Board uprooted trees while clearing the Creek. There had been similar objections to MMBW work along the river banks from both council & members of the public. Heidelberg Council banned MMBW from work on council land until acceptable guidelines were worked out. HEIDELBERGER 9 May 1971 AGE 8 May 1973

FREWAY The F18 would have run along a road reservation made in 1924 from Burke Rd Bridge along the valley and up to Greensborough. An alternative route would have passed through the Banyule flats.

CHELSWORTH PARK "has been the scene of heated conservation debates since 1910..." HEIDELBERGER 26 May 1982 The late Mrs "fracas" concerns Ivanhoe Grammar proposals

BURKE ROAD RESERVE As at 1967 "sanitary landfill was being placed in billabongs. The hillside stripped to provide covering soil" The level of the land was ultimately raised more than 3 feet. "Not many years ago this reserve had two fine billabongs teeming with waterbirds and wooded gullies from the Boulevard..." July 1969 - tennis courts, golf fairways & picnic area

the second HARTLANDS (P. WATT) 1888 Unsuccessful attempt to rezone land in this area as residential

1952 River land subdiv. of Charterisville Estate

1970 Despite objections by the YVCL, the MMBW gave Veneto Club go ahead to build

1960's housing in Bulleen

The EPA set a deadline for 1980 to make the Yarra "fit for swimming and fishing as far downstream as Princess Bridge" AGE 9 Sept 1972

SWIMMING "Swimming in the Yarra below Warrandyte is as dangerous to the health as soaking in an ordinary bath with half a gallon of raw sewage thrown in" Dr. Leonard ALLEN Pres. YVCL AGE 21 March 1970

ISSUES between "utilitarians" and "conservationists" included:

- river pollution
- soil stripping
- the use of billabongs and wetlands as rubbish receptacles
- the SEC's high tension line projected freeways
- the amount of riverland given over to sport
- industrial encroachment on the riverlands
- residential subdivision in some areas

But many larger conflicts were involved....

1900 NEW BRIDGE
SWIMMING POOL
FORD PARK

NORTHCOTE TIP c.1873
FORD ST HILL ESTATE 1942
FAIRVIEW
SEDDON RESERVE

ROCKBEARE IN THE 50'S
"the Creek as we kids called it was straight out of a Mark Twain novel. We used to catch Redfin, Carp (not European but Silver and Gold) and in 1953 I caught a 14 pound Brown Trout... We used to catch hundreds of eels... and in the season we had blackberry feasts, Mulberry feasts... Quince feasts... Plum feasts... and... I was an avid birds egg collector and there was sic) many different types of birds..."
W.R. MILES

1972 EPA found the D.C. to be highly polluted in north but that it entered the Yarra "in a well-oxygenated condition after crossing park area and a weir in the lower reaches."
THE LUCERNE FARM 25a. Until 1956 owned by Major Percy Lyell. He "grew some fabulous crops of lucerne and vegetables... as well as running a successful Dairy Herd... The fees received for grazing horses and cattle was a surprising sum. The astounding potentiality of this property is that the soil... is so valuable because it is a combination of the wash from the Darebin volcanic soil valley and the alluvial from the Yarra Valley. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that you could collect all the purchase money from the sale of River Garden soil and then sit down and wait for the two streams to replace it."
Estate Agent's adv. Much of the farm was bought by the Le Trobe Golf Club. The historic house was demolished in 1960.

WYNSTAY demolished, 1961
ROCKBEARE PARK CONSERVATION GROUP formed 1978 when MMBW destroyed an estimated 75% of trees and shrubs along the D.C. on the Heid. side.
ROCKBEARE

1970 At CHELSWORTH and WILSON RESERVE bought by NORTHCOTE COUNCIL 1975
1971 GREENACRES GOLF CLUB in trouble over fill in river...

1950 MMBW plan to construct overflow sewer at FAIRY HILLS dropped
SPARKS RESERVE
WALLER HOUSE
OSILO HOUSE FARM BUILDING

McGEORGE HOUSE UNOFFICIAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
C. BALLEE: Platypus seen regularly at junction of D.C. and Yarra up until 1960 - sightings ceased after discharge of sewage began at Burke Road

CHELSWORTH PARK
BILLABONG FILLED WITH GARBAGE
OCTOBER 1963 overflow sewage passing along IRVINE ST drain into Billabong

WILSON RESERVE
BAD EROSION 1981 STUDY
440 BATHING BEACH
GOLF CLUBHOUSE

GREENACRES GOLF CLUB post WW2
KEW GOLF CLUB 1922
1978 KGC given permission to dump fill in river

CHARTERISVILLE
SUBDIVISION ended in 1962; at this time part of the house was demolished in the final destruction of the estate
1952 River land subdiv. of Charterisville Estate

BURKE RD RESERVE - SEE ABOVE
DAIRYING continued on flats for some time
NEW BRIDGE 1988
SWIMMING POOL
Council tipping in billabong 1962
G. PIZZET Platypus still here in 1940's

1962 KILBY STUD FARM "unsightly overflats having a small wooded creek winding through it..."
EASTERN FREWAY skirted valley for the time but rather than going down the middle, as some people advocated

CAREY GRAMMAR SPORTS FIELDS by 1962
Natural confluence of Koonung & Yarra - altered by MMBW
A new eroding bank developed opposite while downstream a formerly eroding bank became a depositing bank - a flat of 1ha was formed over 10 years
ESAV

1962 "sanitary" landfill up to 12' deep proposed for 140 acres
2 well used bathing beaches were affected
1972 At Koonung Cx junction with Yarra "a foam bank 12m in length & up to 3m deep with a very high bacterial count" EPA

MMBW Pumping Station sent "heavily chlorinated sewage" into the Yarra during the 1960's, from near Burke Road Bridge
SEC high tension wire between Kew & Templestowe - public outcry late 1960's

SPORTS FIELD
Council Bldg. Stripping & filling
99' reserve made along river

1962 "sanitary" landfill up to 12' deep proposed for 140 acres
2 well used bathing beaches were affected

SEC high tension wire between Kew & Templestowe - public outcry late 1960's



Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

HISTORICAL MAPS: MAP F

1934 -

"Utilitarians" and Conservationists

- SEWERAGE lines as at 1974
- x-x- SEC High Tension line
- Billabongs and wetlands from recent aerial photographs and maps
- Parkland, or proposed parkland
- Golfcourses

EROSION Between Burke Rd Bridge and the Chandler Highway Crossing there is active erosion on the outside bend of every meander. Av. rates of recession 0.3 to 1.2m per year over the past 33 years 1978-1981 STUDIES

ALPHINGTON SWIMMING CLUB closed c.1967 because of river pollution

3 Kilometres

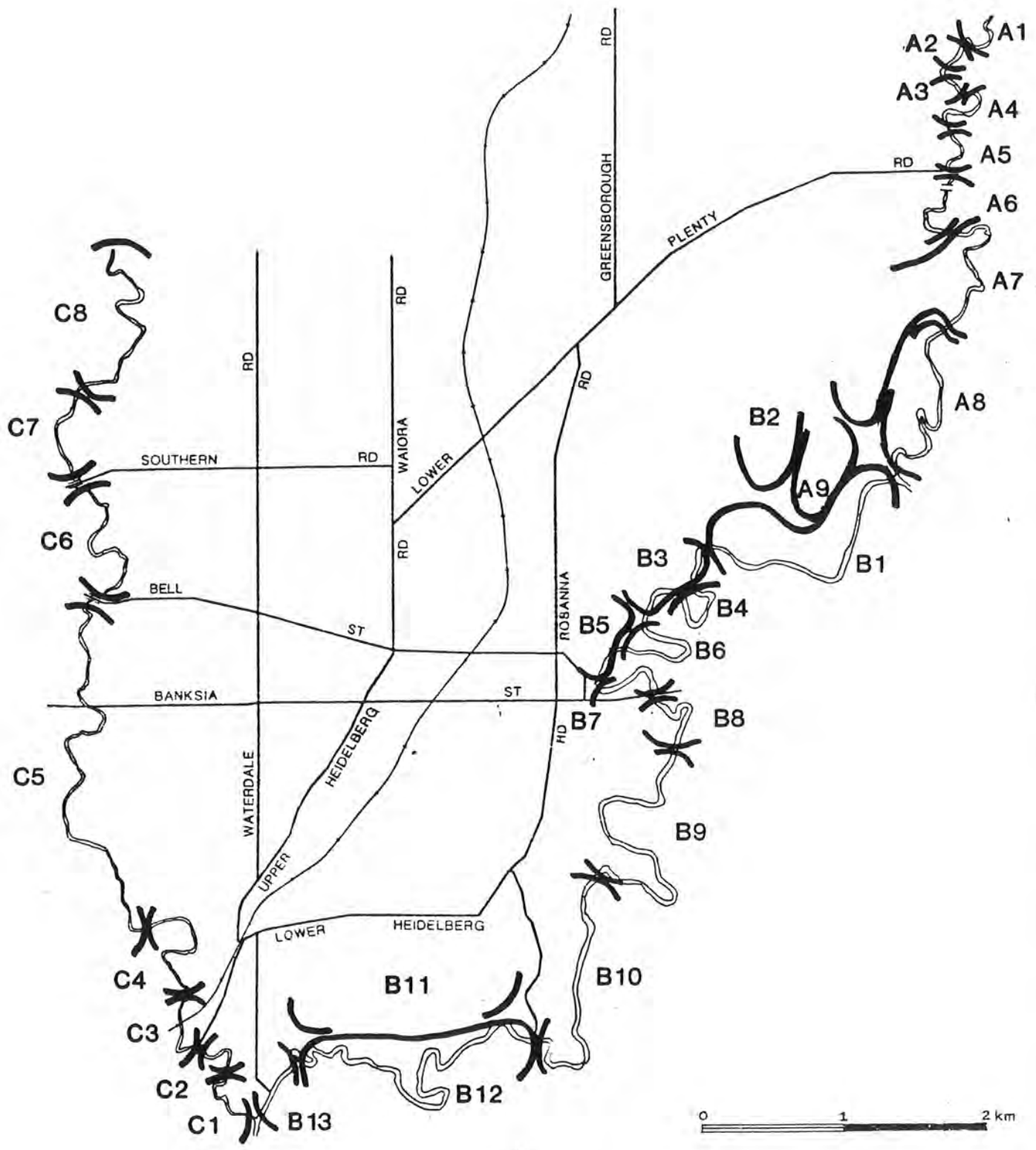
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EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS

Heidelberg is bounded to the east, south and west by streams which historically and today delineate and provide distinctive landscape character to the city's edges. As we have described elsewhere, the character of the area as well as the physical nature of the streams have had a marked and often pivotal influence on the historical development of Heidelberg. This section describes the character and subjectively comments upon the quality of the landscape of the open space and its edges associated with the Plenty River, Yarra River and Darebin Creek in Heidelberg.

We have not attempted, nor do we see it as appropriate, to rank the landscape for either quality, distinctiveness or type. We have however broken the landscape into a number of landscape precincts. Each precinct is an area of similar landscape characteristic as determined by its topography, vegetation, scale, land-use and adjacent land-uses. These landscape units were used to assist us to establish the precincts about which our detail historical analysis and recommendations revolve.



PLENTY RIVER PRECINCTS: A1-A8
 YARRA RIVER PRECINCTS: B1-B13
 DAREBIN CREEK PRECINCTS: C1-C8



**LANDSCAPE
PRECINCTS**


N 1:25,000

A PLENTY RIVER

The Plenty River is a narrow meandering stream incised into the low hills creating cliffs and small sections of flood plain. The stream is so contained almost until it reaches the flood plain of the Yarra River. In a broad perspective the stream and its open space is dominated initially by Manna Gums, *Eucalyptus viminalis* and then by River Red Gums, *E. camaldulensis*, as it approaches the Yarra River. Red Box, *E. polyanthemos* and Yellow Box, *E. melliodora* are present on the higher slopes and Swamp gum, *E. ovata* occurs with Red gums in the lower reaches of the stream. Because of the narrowness of the Plenty Valley, many of the woodland understory species invade to the stream's edge. Commonly noted species include: *Acacias verticillata*, *armata*, *dealbata*, *mearnsii*, *implexa* and *melanoxylon*; *Bursaria spinosa*; *Callistemon paludosus*; *Exocarpus cupressiformis*; *Hymenanthera dentata*; *Goodenia ovata*; *Solanum aviculare*; *Clematis microphylla*; *Cassinia venata*; *leptospermum phyllicoides*.

The stream and its surrounds break up within this broad picture into seven district landscape character units.

A1 ALLIMA AVE NORTH

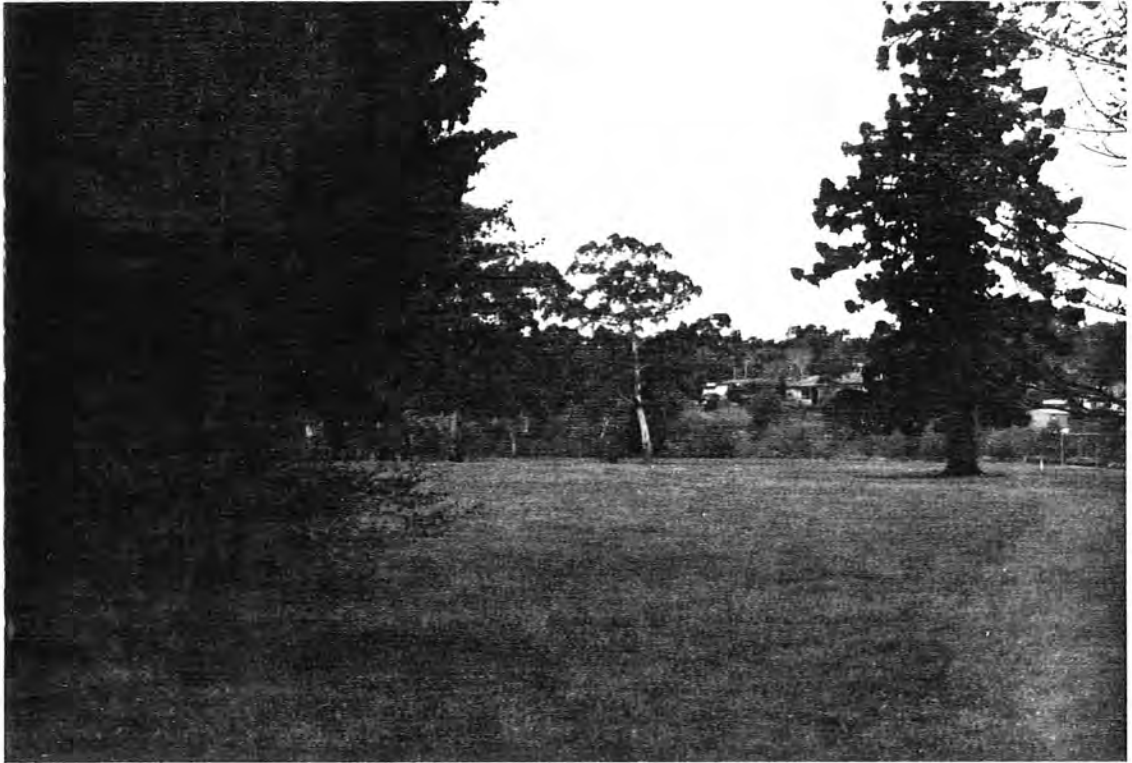
An undulating landscape with the stream cutting into the eastern bank creating a horse-shoe "flat" on the Hedelberg side dominated by large Manna Gums. The "flat" is in fact undulating and was once open pasture and possibly orchard and gardens; it is now dominated by disturbed ground, spreading noxious weeds and thickets of vegetation.

The area is contained by residential backyards, partially hidden and softened by the Manna Gums and mixed residential plantings. Despite the weeds the area has a pleasant character derived from the large trees and its broader scale. It would not take a great effort to dramatically improve its quality to a very pleasant landscape.

To upgrade the area the existing attributes of the stream, the gums and its "contained flats" should be reinforced.

A2 ALLIMA AVE

A very narrow river valley with steep western silurian cliffs almost creating a gorge feeling. The valley is dominated again by Manna Gums, but the cliff is covered in a variety of noxious weeds which continue as an understorey choking the stream. As in the above unit, backyards dominate the "edges". However, from the stream elevation these are not generally visible - though their garden rubbish spills down the slopes.



YALLAMBIE FLAT - VIEW EAST
Open meadow with remnant conifers and
eucalypt regeneration.



YALLAMBIE FLAT - VIEW SOUTH
Orchard and conifer remnants.

To note in this area are a few Roman Cypress's, *Cypressus sempervirens* obviously part of an original linear stand; which protrude above the houses atop the western cliff and down the escarpment.

Again, the area has reasonable quality, which is as much from the sense of potential as well as the closed ruggedness of the land and the large gums. These good qualities should be highlighted in any works to upgrade the area. While the housing destroys all relevance of the Cypress's they do allude to an older, broader and grander landscape.

A3 ALLIMA AVE TO YALLAMBIE

While the stream is still incised, it now runs through a slightly more open setting with gentler side slopes. The scene is now dominated by backyards and backyard fencing as well as the disturbance of recent "river improvement works". At the northern end and continuing downstream on the eastern side large Manna Gums along the stream again add quality to an otherwise poor landscape.

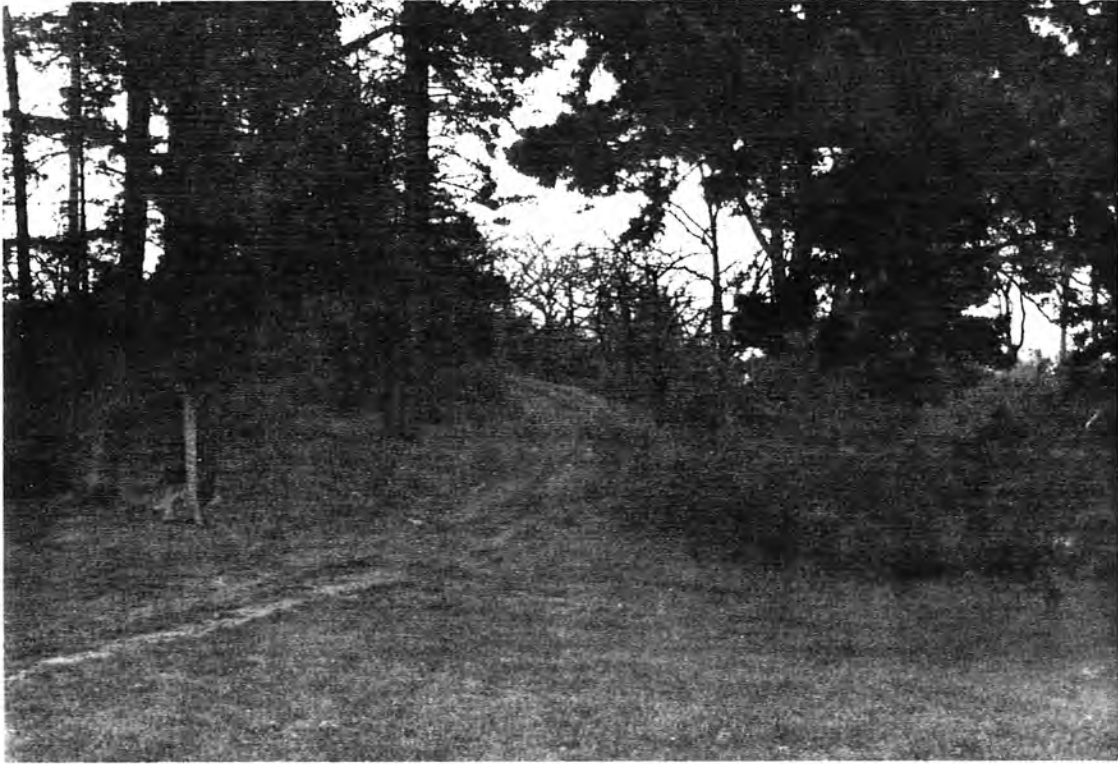
On the western side at the Yallambie end, a copse of older and sapling pines (dominated by *Pinus canariensis*) cover the slopes, alluding to the landscape of Yallambie beyond.

Thickets and isolated species of Hawthorn, *Crataegus* sp.; and Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*; dot the more open slopes of this area and give some sense of a previous agricultural history.

This is a very mixed landscape of currently poor quality. It has good potential to link both with the Allima Ave. end and Yallambie and could well be an interesting transition zone.

A4 YALLAMBIE

A dramatic landscape in complete contrast to the units further north. A large horse-shoe open flat is contained all round with Manna Gums to the north east; river edge thickets to the east with a lone Roman Cypress; river thickets to the south east with suckering False Acacia, *Robinia pseudoacacia*; a thicket of Elms, *Ulmus procera* and a stand of mixed *Auracarias*, mainly Hoop Pine, *Auracaria bidwillii* to the south west; to the west the old homestead sited on the ridge is partially concealed by the large mixed conifers down the overgrown garden slopes to remnant orchard at the bottom; a line of Pin Oaks, *Quercus palustris* and Hawthorns flanking an old track to the north west and a pair of magnificent English Oaks, *Quercus robur* to the west.



YALLAMBIE FLAT - NORTHERN PATHWAY
Conifer woodland and recent pin oak avenue.



YALLAMBIE FLAT - VIEW NORTH EAST
Meadow with old oaks.



PATHWAY INTO YALLAMBIE FLAT FROM THE SOUTH
Remnant conifer close woodland.



PATHWAY INTO YALLAMBIE FLAT FROM YALLAMBIE PARK



YALLAMBIE PARK VIEW TO NORTH
Yallambie as a backdrop.



SOUTH OF LOWER PLENTY ROAD
Grassland to woodland.

The scene resembles a derelict "common" dominated by the magnificence of the Conifers and Oaks, and the brooding western slope with the dull walls of the old house.

The open flat in fact has a number of scattered elements within it: a stand of Manna Gums, probably about 40-60 years old which link across the river to the more "natural" setting upstream; a fitness track and barbeque, and the south western end the remnant orchard, mainly Pear, a lone Cypress and a Fig.

The setting is disturbed by the general sense of dilapidation; the new houses and their back gardens on the western slope; the fitness track and the houses to the east. Despite these disturbances the quality is high and the potential enormous. It is a most exciting discrete, contrasting, landscape.

Mention should be made of the track running south from the "common". It is enclosed and alluring. It commences amongst and is dwarfed by the Auracarias and continues towards the parkland beyond, on a bench cut into the hillside and overgrown with Hawthorns and occasional Conifers. A delightful laneway to enter or exit from Yallambie.

A5 YALLAMBIE PARK

A flat plain of sports fields and tennis courts complete with the associated clutter of fences, club houses and car parks all enclosed by the exposed neighbouring backyards to the west and dense riverside vegetation to the east.

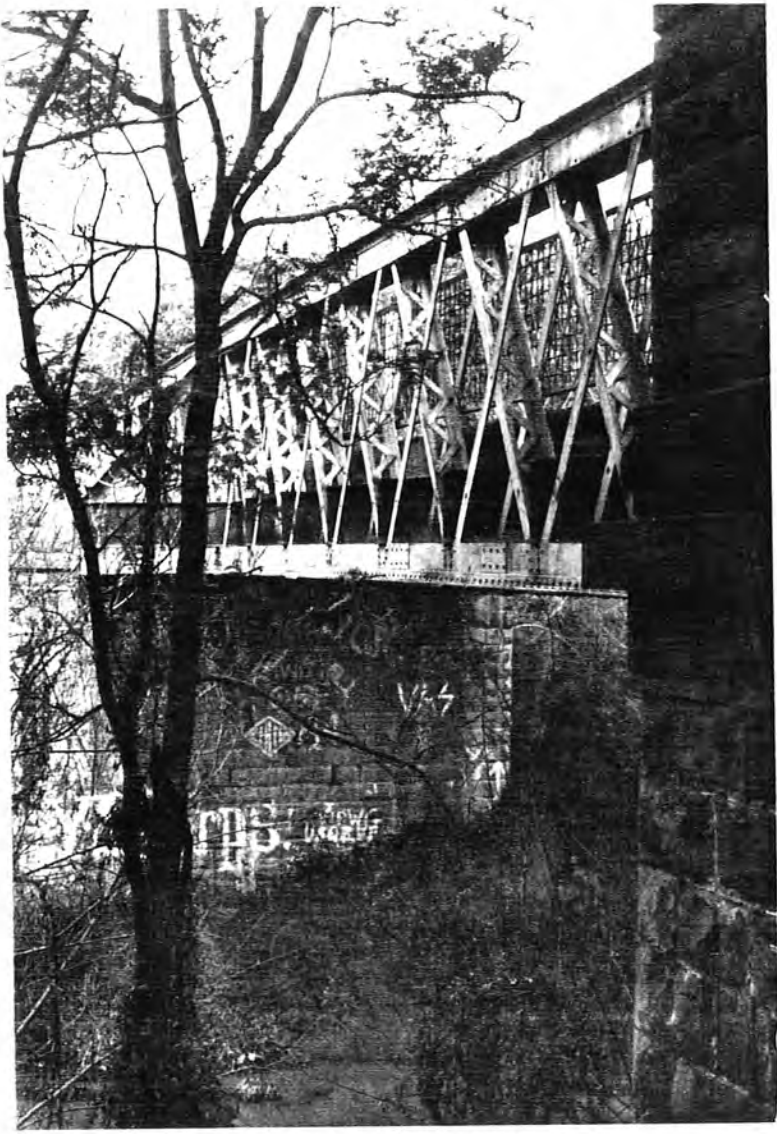
SECV transmission lines cut across the northern end but their impact is not great owing to the tower locations only a small extent of line is actually seen. However, they do have an impact on the view north to Yalambie with its brooding pines.

A poor quality landscape requiring considerable planting works and sensitive detailing.

A6 OLD LOWER PLENTY ROAD

From Plenty Road down to Bannockburn Road the stream is incised into an undulating topography. The area is generally enclosed and discrete with a canopy of indigenous trees and an understorey of impenetrable native shrubs and noxious weeds. Access is virtually impossible south of the old bridge.

The pines of Mollison Lodge and the iron framing and brick abutments of the old bridge give a sense of a landscape of greater quality, now overgrown. This feeling is pervasive to the southern end of the unit which is enclosed by a stand of old Elms.



LOWER PLENTY BRIDGE - DISUSED



BANYULE ROAD VIEW EAST
Derelict hedged lane.

It is a closed landscape of medium quality downgraded by weed infestation.

A7 MARTINS LANE TO VIEW BANK

This landscape unit is large and with edges created by residential development to the west, a steep escarpment to the south east and the Plenty River to the north east. The area is undulating and part of a much broader landscape. It does not contain any flatter flood plain areas. It is most strongly characterised by open rolling pastoral grassland with scattered large and old River Red Gums. In some areas the Gums form dense stands of open woodland. The land is generally of reasonable elevation affording excellent views especially south. Some native grasses still exist, but generally the pasture is "improved".

Within this landscape a number of sub-units can be described:

- i) **Martins Lane North**; a landscape gently sloping with a north and north easterly aspect. Remnants of a historical landscape still dominate, e.g. old fence line with a row of Roman Cypresses, rows and clumps of Elms and Oaks and the ruins of old buildings. The area has a pleasant open derelict quality which could be lost as recent plantings of indigenous trees develop.
- ii) **Seymour Road East**; a landscape gently sloping with an easterly aspect. It is generally enclosed, with short views, by a woodland canopy of mixed indigenous species Yellow Box, Eucalyptus melliodora; Red Box, E. polyanthemos; Black Peppermint, E. dives and River Red Gums. The Plenty River is deeply incised but lost in a tangle of shrubs and weeds. The landscape is of good quality
- iii) **Banyule Road**; a landscape directly associated with the road but borrowing from its surrounds and adding to them. An almost continuous Hawthorn hedge flanks both sides of a sealed road without kerbs. It has the character and quality of an English lane, and when coupled with other elements in this broader unit adds to the older pastoral history of the area. This laneway adds considerably to the quality of the area.



SOUTH OF MARTINS LANE
Open eucalypt woodland.



SOUTH OF MARTINS LANE
Grassland to close eucalypt woodland.



NORTH OF MARTINS LANE
Remnant farm and cottage plantings.



NORTH OF MARTINS LANE
Remnant farm and cottage plantings.



VIEWBANK HILL FROM TEMPLESTOWE



BANYULE FLATS VIEW EAST TO VIEWBANK HILL
AND DANDENONGS

A8 ROSANNA GOLF COURSE

The golf course flanks the Plenty River from Henty's Bridge down to the Yarra River. The golf course is typical of the Australian vogue in golf course layout with fairways delineated by parallel plantings of exotic trees and shrubs. The course is dotted with old large Red Gums and the River is flanked by them.

We find it a disturbing landscape in its location but find it difficult to describe it as having mediocre quality. It could be enormously improved by redesigning as a "links" course with scattered Red Gums as the dominant landscape feature, and consolidated plantings of exotics.

A9 VIEW BANK HILL

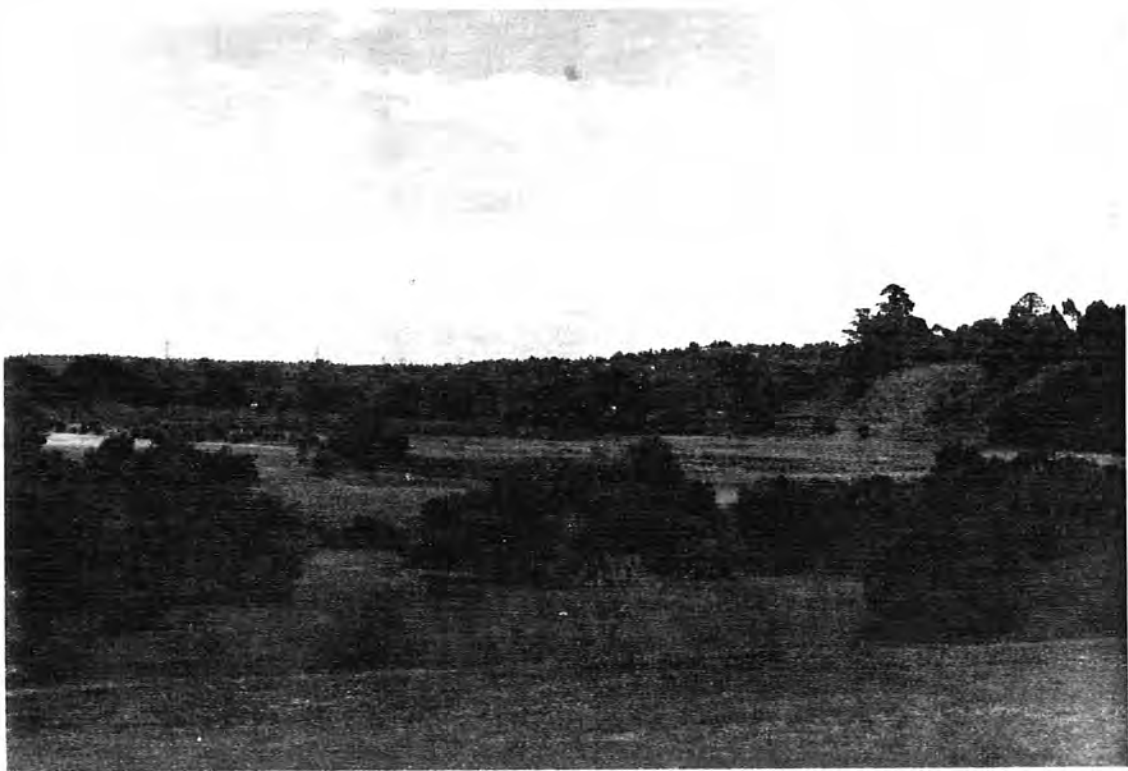
A landscape dominated by panoramic views and old trees, both indigenous and exotic. The hill is in fact a spur promontory projecting in to the Yarra River flood plain. The area is the site of the former Viewbank homestead, of which only ground terracing, a circus of mixed exotic trees and a tree-lined drive are now the main elements. A sense of age and history link with the grandeur of magnificent old Red Gums and dramatic views to create a landscape of immense quality. The distracting elements, mainly adjacent housing, could easily be reduced in impact.

B YARRA RIVER

The Yarra River, through the study area is a stream meandering in its flood plain. The plain width varies, but can generally be considered to be broad. Since European settlement the stream has altered course (in particular in the Chelsworth Park area) but could be considered stable. The flood plain is contained by undulating hills and occasional steeper escarpments. The plain is generally in open space use contained by flanking suburban development.

Generally, the stream edges are flanked with a mixture of native trees and shrubs with dense stands of Willow, *Salix* sp. The indigenous flora is dominated by River Red Gum, *E. camaldulensis*; Silver Wattle, *Acacia dealbata*; Black Wattle, *A. mearnsii*; Lightwood, *A. implexa*; Sweet Bursaria, *Bursaria spinosa* and River Bottle Brush, *Callistemon paludosus*.

We have identified eleven broad landscape units associated with the Yarra River in the study area.



BANYULE FLATS VIEW SOUTH FROM
NATIVE GARDEN



BANYULE FLATS VIEW NORTH FROM
BANYULE ESCARPMENT

B1 & B2 VIEW BANK AND BANYULE FLATS

A broad expanse of flood plain along the Yarra from the Plenty River to Plymouth Street, penetrated by the Viewbank promontory. The plain is generally open but is typically undulating with remnants of old water courses, swamplands and billabongs. The river edge is well wooded and other major stands are associated with large billabongs and drainage lines. Sufficient trees remain, when coupled with those along the edges, to give a pleasant sense of rural riverine grassland contained by large trees.

The outlook into the area from Viewbank and especially from Banyule probably has not changed for about 80 years, i.e. rolling pasture, broken up by the meanderings of tree-lined river and billabongs, white faced cattle and flocks of Ibis. Some changes have occurred but they are fairly recent.

Intruding into the area is the Somerset Drive housing development, Banyule sports field and Banyule native gardens. The first two are very much out of character, while the latter can be accommodated. They all impact negatively upon the high quality of the landscape and need to be addressed if the quality is to reflect the significance of the area.

Of special interest, adding both to the character and quality of the area, is Banyule Homestead which stands white and proud on the ridge looking east over the landscape described above. It is unfortunately hedged in by adjacent residential development, which is fortunately, being slowly wooded out. The continued strong visual relationship between the Homestead, the wetlands and the flats is critical.

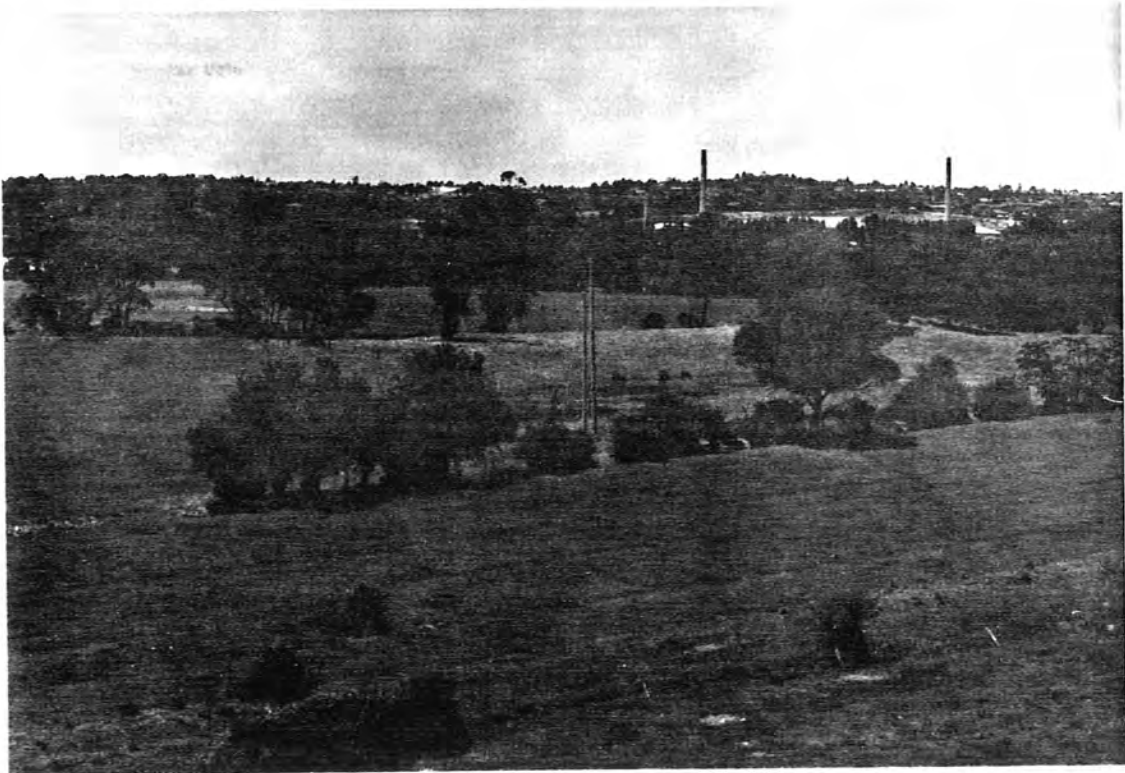
The Banyule Wetlands are a sorry apology in the grandeur of the rest of the setting. Drained and weed infested they are currently of little value to the landscape of the area.

B3 WARRINGAL PARKLANDS

Gently sloping to flat land with an easterly aspect stretching from Plymouth Street down to Warringal Park. It includes Banyule High School, Tennis Club, Oval and Wetlands. It is a diverse landscape generally reflecting development over the last 30 years or less. It has lost its pastoral quality and now appears as reasonably typical parkland reflecting its associated land uses.



BANYULE/VIEWBANK FLATS VIEW EAST



VIEWBANK FLATS VIEW SOUTH TO TEMPLESTOWE



BANYULE FLATS VIEW EAST TO VIEWBANK HILL



BANYULE FLATS VIEW EAST



BANYULE HIGH SCHOOL
VIEW FROM FANNING'S BEND



FANNING'S BEND VIEW TO SOUTH

105.

It is a poor quality landscape without integrity. There is no consistency or sympathy in the recent plantings through the area. The wetlands are now overgrown and do not have any sense of place or setting. The school buildings can be managed, but the new tennis complex is overwhelmingly close to the river. The existing pine plantations and a strange avenue of Spruce and Ash adjacent to the river are both disturbing and unnecessary elements.

B4 FANNINGS BEND

A discrete landscape enclosed by a horse-shoe bend of the river and closed by a recent planting of mixed native species including White Iron bark, Eucalyptus leucoxydon and Willow Leaf Peppermint, *E. nichollii*. The riverbank is well vegetated and the enclosed landscape is open and rough grassed. Recent spotty native plantings are inappropriate and unnecessary.

The area is pleasant with considerable potential.

B5 HEIDELBERG PARK

This zone is dramatically different from any area previously described. Its closest affinity is with Yallambie well to the north. We have included in this landscape unit, Heidelberg Cricket Ground, Heidelberg Park and the area surrounding St John's Church.

The area is characterised by old plantings of mixed conifer species and a minor sub-planting of deciduous trees. The conifers are so strong and dominant they unify what is otherwise a fairly run-down area.

The land is hilly with gentle to steep slopes, i.e. except for the cricket ground which sits at the foot of the steepest slopes, set in as a bowl. The Park itself is generally open grassland under the Conifer canopy, however the southern end still bears some resemblance to earlier rock edged garden and shrub beds reminiscent of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The Cricket Ground area is now spoilt by the unsympathetic planting in the carpark and the amenity block. The St. John's area is somewhat overgrown, which suits the old world nature of the church, hedges and dark tall Conifers. However recent buildings and plantings have destroyed the quality and atmosphere of the area.

It's a rather interesting and fun landscape of good quality and with great potential.



WARRINGAL WETLANDS



WARRINGAL PARKLAND

B6 WARRINGAL PARK

Warringal Park is east of Heidelberg Park and includes a trotting track and sports field and a finger of parkland known as Sills Bend, enclosed on three sides by the Yarra River. The land form is flat to gently undulating. The area is not intensively developed, was once of excellent quality but is currently downgraded.

The trotting track area is formalised with the track filling most of the available land and surrounded by avenues of Poplars. The adjacent riverbanks are dominated by Willows and suckering Elms.

The Sills Bend area is a rough passive parkland with a slightly formalised layout of exotic deciduous trees over the top of a much older orchard plantings. In particular the Mulberry, *Morus* sp. and Pears, *Pyrus* sp. are very old. The parkland is very enclosed and the river side vegetation dense. This area has excellent potential but requires considerable rationalisation.

B7 ST. JOHN'S/WARRINGAL TO BANKSIA STREET

This unit is small and narrow taking in the lower slopes of the original Warringal village east of St. John's and along the river to Banksia Street. The area is derelict and weed infested. The river banks are well treed with substantial Red Gum regrowth which is beginning to dominate the scene.

The old dirt and pot-holed track, the remnant timber and wire fence - some of it still painted white, the line of Cypress and the views up to St. Johns all quickly lend an air of the derelict rural retreat only a few yards from busy Banksia Street. While rubbish strewn, and the place for a good blackberry harvest, this small area has enormous potential.

The Banksia Street frontage is healing with its red gum regrowth. The existing nursery is now of high quality; but the aim must be to embrace this important river crossing in natural open space.

B8 BANKSIA STREET PARKLAND

South of Banksia Street, the eyesore of eight years ago - a dump for demolition material, has been converted into public parkland. The rolling landscape with wetlands and predominantly local vegetation fits the setting. The barrier fencing, style of amenity blocks and sealed access ways and parking are well constructed and their current impact will be softened in time as the planting develops.



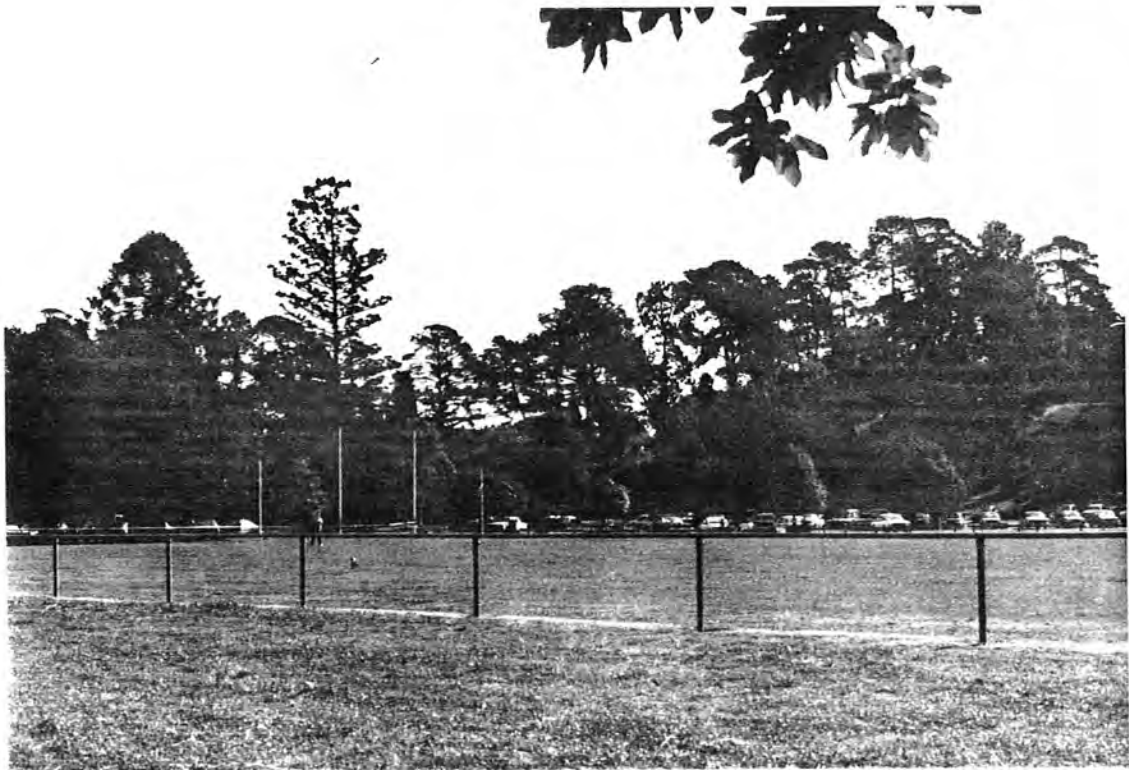
SILLS BEND



SILLS BEND



ST. JOHNS VIEW FROM THE SOUTH EAST



HEIDELBERG PARK
WITH THE GARDEN AND ST. JOHNS
IN THE BACKGROUND



HEIDELBERG PARK CARPARK



HEIDELBERG PARK LOOKING NORTH EAST



HEIDELBERG GARDENS
closed conifer woodland.



HEIDELBERG GARDENS



ST. JOHNS VIEW FROM THE NORTH



SOUTH EAST OF ST. JOHNS LOOKING NORTH



SOUTH EAST OF ST. JOHNS LOOKING NORTH



SOUTH EAST OF ST. JOHNS LOOKING SOUTH



YARRA FLATS WETLANDS



YARRA FLATS WETLANDS

The area will be of good quality. It however does not reflect on open pastoral nature which dominates a short distance upstream and downstream. It suggests an evocation of the indigenous riverine woodland, tamed and manicured.

B9 YARRA FLATS, TO McCUBBIN STREET

Again this landscape is part of the broad flood plain of the Yarra River. While extensively disturbed and flattened the flood plain still represents a gently undulating rural landscape. It is enclosed on the east by large trees along the river and to the west by well wooded, overlooking, residential development.

The landscape is however considerably fragmented by hedgerows of Cypresses (probably *Cyprinus macrocarpa 'lambertiana'*) and recent paddock fencing to separate horse agistment paddocks and a linear multi-purpose trail. The trail itself when coupled with its fencing is a rather harsh element, presenting a degree of rigidity not sympathetic with the meandering river.

This area has the potential to have great quality, but is currently spoiled by fragmentation. The landscape could either be open and unfragmented or converted to open woodland with clearings.

B10 YARRA FLATS, MCCUBBIN TO BURKE ROAD

The western valley is very restricted in this stretch with the river cutting in close to the Eaglement spur. The landscape is long and linear enclosed by the vegetation along the Yarra and again by housing on the sides of the hill above The Boulevard. The flood plain is more typically undulating and the fencing and park trail less dominant.

From within the unit, other than up and down the valley, views are restricted; however from The Boulevard views into the intensively developed sports areas to the east can be disturbing.

This is a good quality landscape which can be treated independently or linked with the unit above.

B11 CHELSWORTH, GOLF COURSE AND SPORTS FIELDS

This unit consists of gentle slopes running down to and including the flood plain, developed with sports fields, tennis courts and golf facilities. It includes Chelsworth Park and The Ivanhoe Golf Club.

This unit does not include the heavily wooded edge to the Yarra.



IVANHOE GOLF COURSE FROM THE WETLANDS



IVANHOE GOLF COURSE
Open and closed woodland.

The aspect of this area varies but is generally south. It is contained to the south by dense woodland and elsewhere by residential development which generally overlooks it. The Golf Course and eastern end are reasonably treed, but with mixed species. The Chelsworth Park area is generally open and flat; it is a large area and lacks definition; the remnant wetlands which penetrate it are degraded.

The area lacks a strong character mainly due to the mix of tree species. The remnants of the old Chelsworth Homestead and its garden are abused and do not identify themselves readily. Occasional clumps of Red Gums in the Golf Course allude to a character worth reinforcing. The area has only medium quality - it could be much higher.

B12 WETLANDS AND WILSON RESERVE

One of the "wildest" units in the whole study area. It stretches along the Yarra from Burke Road Bridge to and including Wilson Reserve. It includes the wetlands south of Chelsworth Park; an area of billabongs and dense vegetation.

This section of the Yarra has undergone the greatest number of changes of any section in the project area since it was first mapped. The river twists sharply and the series of 'S' bends have noticeably moved downstream, eroding and depositing. Land-fill has both encouraged and deflected this movement.

At one stage open pasture land, this unit is now covered by dense regrowth of native, exotic and weed species. Current management practices are beginning to cut back extensive Blackberry growth. The unit is characterised by dense thickets, snaking paths, secret waterholes, ducks and water hens and dark mysterious glens. It is a haven for bird watchers and loved by those retreating from the world of suburban order.

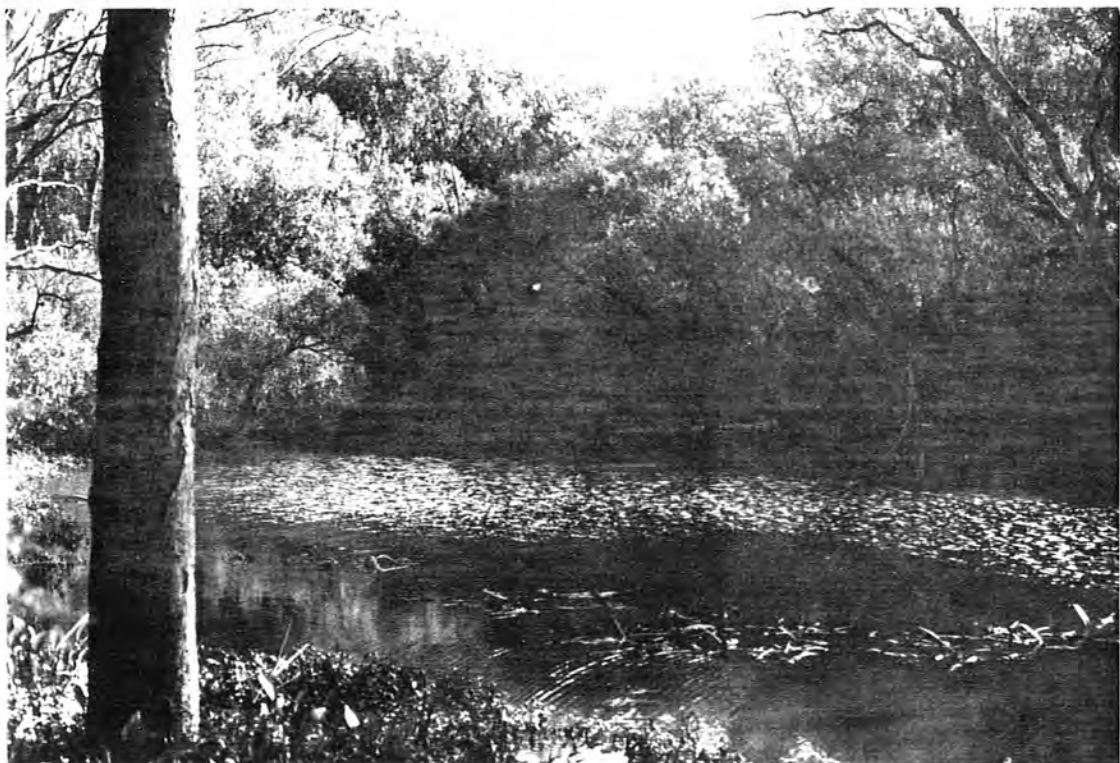
The area would have to be listed as being of poor quality due to its weed infestation but it has great character and mystery.

B13 WATERDALE ROAD

The last stretch of the Yarra River in this study, this unit stretches south west from Wilson Reserve to the confluence with Darebin Creek. The area is in private ownership with the properties stretching down to the riverbank. The land aspect is south east with moderate slopes to occasional narrow patches of flood plain.



CHELSWORTH PARK WETLANDS
Closed woodland.



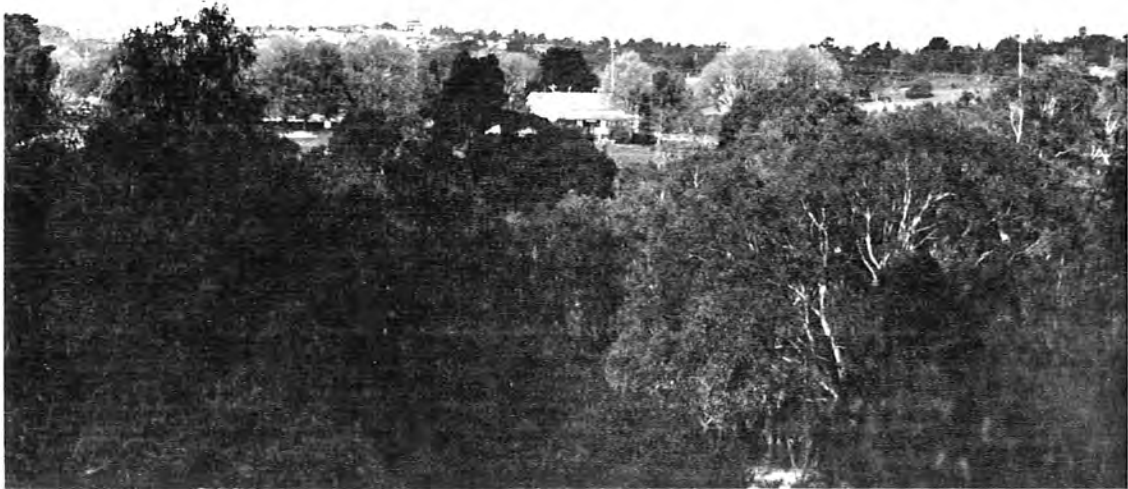
CHELSWORTH PARK WETLANDS
Closed woodland.



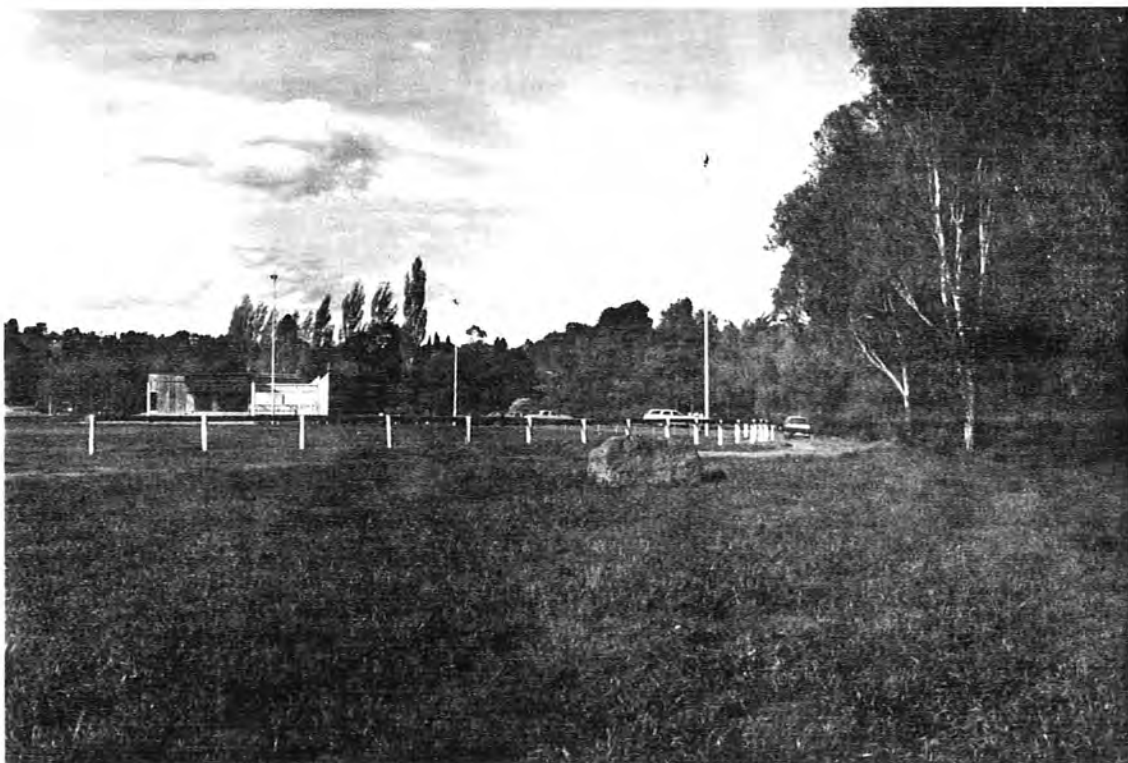
WILSON RESERVE PLAYGROUND



WILSON RESERVE PLAYGROUND



VIEW EAST TO GOLF CLUB FROM
ABOVE WILSON RESERVE



CHELSWORTH PARK AT EDGE OF WETLANDS

The character obviously changes through the unit due to the activities of each land owner; but fortunately remnant and re-growth River Red Gums persist sufficiently to integrate the area. Generally the properties are overgrown at their river ends, so the additional vegetation helps with the integration and screens the larger proportion of the dwellings - there are some unfortunate notable exceptions.

C DAREBIN CREEK

Within this study the Darebin Creek runs south from Latrobe University to the Yarra River. Its course has been influenced by old lava flows and in a number of locations, e.g. Darebin Parkland, it follows the junction between the basalt and silurian material. In the north the creek flows through a trench incised into the flat plain, usually with slight meanderings between terraces.

Most of the northern section is devoid of vegetation and has been subject to extensive modification - especially on the Western side. Today only isolated tipping and quarrying continue, but industrial activity often hedges the creek valley in. The southern half is more influenced by residential development with planted and escarpment suburban exotic plants competing with weed species. The stream is often entirely lined with willows. A number of steep cliff sections occur and on these remnant stands of indigenous vegetation remain.

The indigenous vegetations of the area would have included both woodland and riparian species. Most are still present in isolated patches. The list would have included Red Gum, *E. camaldulensis*; Yellow gum, *E. leucoxyton*; Yellow box, *E. melliodora*; Drooping She-Oak, *Casuarina stricta*; Black She-Oak, *Casuarina littoralis*; Black wattle, *Acacia Mearnsii*; Blackwood, *Acacia melanoxylon*; lightwood, *Acacia implexa*. Most of the smaller shrubs and grasses would have been similar to the other units.

We have broken this area up into eight landscape units, for consistency they are discussed and presented, from the Yarra to the north.

C1 LOWER DAREBIN

The first unit covers the area from the Yarra River up to the footbridge above Sylvan Court. While the stream is narrow compared with the Yarra, this unit is similar to the last area described (B13), with private property running down to the water way.



DAREBIN CREEK
close eucalypt woodland.



DAREBIN CREEK, END OF WATERDALE ROAD

The unit is dominated by large Red Gums along the creek, is generally narrow with gentle slope to a steep rock face on the Heidelberg side. The top end of the unit is overrun with a variety of weeds and suckering elms.

The unit has high landscape quality especially near the confluence with the Yarra. While the houses in this section are very obvious they are set back from the creek line.

C2 SPARKS RESERVE

Continuing upstream the next unit starts at the footbridge and extends up to Heidelberg Road. The stream meanders a little more in this section creating two discrete, contained flats, including Sparks Reserve.

The unit is dominated by exotic deciduous vegetation, though parts are wooded with mixed species with extensive weed infestation on steeper banks. Pine plantations and shelter belt planting, now in the residential area define the ridge and spur structure and add to the reinforcement of Sparks Reserve enclosure.

The unit has low quality at the footbridge end, but higher quality at Sparks Reserve. Scattered recent native plantings threaten to destroy the quality and character of the area.

C3 RAILWAY VIADUCT

A small unit, Heidelberg Road to the railway viaduct has the creek set in a narrow gorge with heavy weed infestation and dense mixed vegetation. The unit is linear and of poor internal quality but higher overlook quality.

C4 DAREBIN PARKLANDS

This unit is the most exciting along Darebin Creek, it extends from the Railway viaduct up to Abercorn Avenue footbridge. The character of the area is not uniform and a number of sub-units could be described, but we have found it easier to consider it as a whole, which is how it reads over all. We have also decided to describe both sides of the creek in this unit as they are equally important to each other. A detailed and excellent description of the site as it was in 1977 appears in the "Darebin Parklands Master Plan" by Calder & Pike.



SPARKS RESERVE VIEW TO NORTH EAST



SPARKS RESERVE ENTRY



RAILBRIDGE, DAREBIN CREEK



REMNANT QUARRY PERCHED ABOVE
HEIDELBERG CREEK
VIEW TO THE SOUTH



DAREBIN PARKLAND VIEW TO THE NORTH



ESCARPMENT, DAREBIN PARKLAND

The unit is contained to the south by the narrowing gorge and the railway viaduct, to the north by a further narrowing gorge and dense vegetation. The creek and flood plain is contained by the mostly very steep escarpments. However at the northern end the western plateau spills gently as a broad spur down to the flood plain. The rock and cliff faces on the east consist of silurian material, while the

western cliffs are basaltic. The stream meanders in broad sweeps cutting into these cliffs. The stream runs quietly through the area tumbling out of a basalt boulder strewn stream at the top end and over a number of basalt, then silurian rapids.

Visually the unit is dominated by the steep cliffs and the spur extending west from Buchan Street, picked out with its sky punctuating old pines. The stream is generally flanked by willows and recent plantings of red gums. The cliffs generally well vegetated with considerable public effort going into the eradication of weed species. Some of the cliffs are wooded with spreading olives while others reflect the original vegetation character. Of special note is the tumbling row and clumps of old twisted dark mulberrys, remnants of previous agricultural activity.

The site has very high quality, but extreme care must be taken that revegetation practices do not destroy its special qualities. These include the open meadows, the bright green willow lined stream contrasting with the grey back drops of olives and native vegetation.

C5 DAREBIN PARKLANDS TO BELL STREET

The next unit up is a dramatic contrast to the Darebin Parklands below. The creek is contained in a very narrow gulch stretching up from the footbridge to about Ford Street. The stream bed is basalt boulder strewn. The stream is generally lined by dense willows but the cliff edges through this area have some excellent pockets of indigenous vegetation e.g. Drooping She-Oak, *Casuarina stricta*; Black wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*; Blackwood, *A. melanoxylon*; Lightwood, *A. implexa*.

This unit is generally narrow, contained within the escarpment with development often overhanging the edges. Occasionally like at Belmont Park it opens out into parkland on the plateau - in this case set in exotic plantations.

The unit has reasonable landscape quality and enormous potential as a linear space.



PINE RIDGE, DAREBIN PARKLAND



PINE RIDGE, DAREBIN PARKLAND



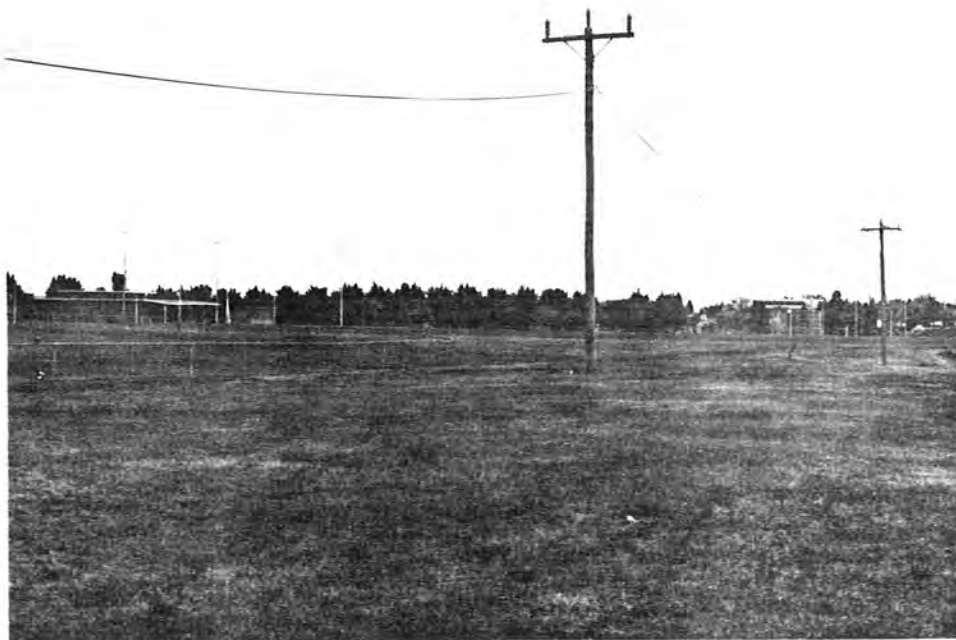
MULBERRY SPUR , DAREBIN PARKLAND



TESSELATED PAVEMENT , DAREBIN PARKLAND



DAREBIN CREEK VIEW TO THE SOUTH WEST



DAREBIN CREEK VIEW TO SOUTH

C6 BELL STREET TO SOUTHERN ROAD

The next series of landscape units are of extremely poor quality, though works undertaken since this study began in 1983 have improved the position. The first of these stretches north from Ford Street to Southern Road.

It is an unattractive landscape with the creek deeply incised. Heavy weed growth and rubbish has accumulated along the low terraces amongst scattered willows. The open space is flanked by back fences to the east and industrial activity including tips and barren warehouses to the west. There is very little vegetation of quality or to screen out the negatively contributing elements.

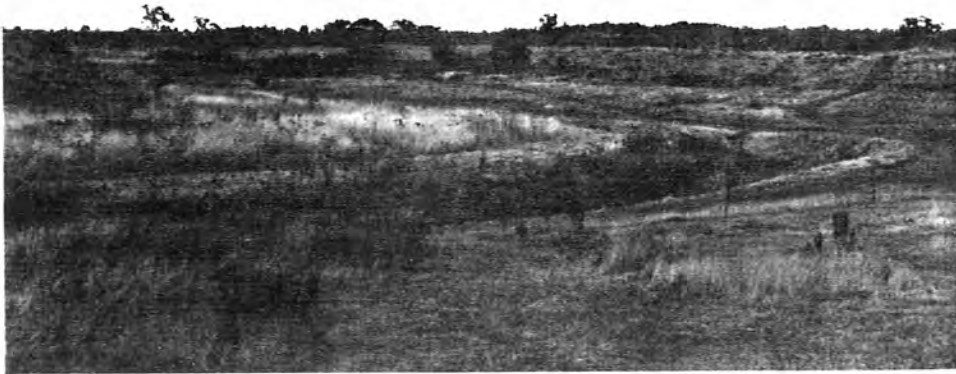
C7 OLYMPIC PARK

The next unit includes a series of spaces associated with Northlands and Olympic Park. Northlands itself is extremely ugly with its exposed parking areas spilling into the creek. Tree plantings and the bend of the creek give some sense of enclosure to the area. The better maintained parkland together with the enclosure provide for a setting of better quality. The views to the north are not unpleasant being open and fairly broad.

C8 UPPER DAREBIN

The last section above Olympic Park consists of an open landscape with the creek set in gentler, broader terraces. There is a sense of enclosure to the distant north and to the south at Olympic Park.

Scattered trees through Preston High School, at the end of Tyler Street and through C.H. Sullivan Park all help to give this area a better feeling. It is still of low quality, but is the one within which the most dramatic changes have occurred, for the better, in the last year.



DAREBIN CREEK
ASPECT TO THE NORTH



DAREBIN CREEK
ASPECT TO THE SOUTH

3.04 HISTORICAL FEATURES OF THE LANDSCAPES

Note: Many of the elements listed may seem trivial but each can tell us something about the past of its landscape. On the other hand, the overall character of the landscape, to which the features contribute is often of far greater historical importance than they. Such overall character is not defined here. Nor are sites which have no historical features surviving; nor geological or physiographical features.

- Precinct A1 . Old pear tree
- Precinct A2 . Line of Cupressus sempervirens, (date unknown but appear to be nineteenth century).
- Precinct A3 . Briars, hawthorns etc. growing wild; garden or hedge escapes.
- . Pines. The older probably date from the Wragge period at Yallambie 1872-.
- Precinct A4 . Group of fruit trees possibly dating to Bakewell period c.1840-1857 or otherwise to Wragge period 1872.
- . Two Cupresses sempervirens probably dating from 1840's-1850's.
- . Mixed exotics on southern part of flat on banks of Plenty; some appear to have survived or descended from Bakewell plantings; others may be Wragge period.
- . Hawthorns and other exotics elsewhere on Plenty bank; garden or hedge escapes.
- . Oak (Quercus palustris) and hawthorn lined hedge to flat on north (date unknown).
- . Group of english oaks (Quercus robur) (date unknown).
- . Site of pump (Bakewells) and wooden windmill (Wragges).



REMNANT PEAR ORCHARD, AND CONIFERS - YALLAMBIE



REMNANT CONIFERS - MARTINS LANE

Adjacent to precinct:

- . Escarpment planted with conifers (Wragge period).
- . "Yallambie", built by Wragge between 1872 and 1876.
- . Garden with many old plants including some fine specimen trees.

Precinct A5

- . Hawthorns: garden or hedge escapes. At least one fine specimen.

Precinct A6

- . Bridge 1866.
- . Stand of old elms.

Adjacent to precinct:

- . Mollison Lodge 1915-16.
- . Garden of Mollison Lodge with pines and hedge.

Precinct A7

(i)

Martin's Lane North.

- . Old fence line with *Cupressus sempervirens*.
- . Rows and clumps of oaks and elms.
- . Old fruit trees.
- . Foundations of building (undated).

(ii)

Seymour Road area.

.

(iii)

Banyule Road area.

- . Mixed hedge. Although post 1930 this hedge appears to be typical of the nineteenth century hedges for which Heidelberg was famous.
- . Large patch of gorse. (Ref. Streeton's Gorse in Bloom, Box Hill).
- . Dams. These are comparatively recent but are reminiscent of an older period.

Precinct A9

- . "Canoe tree".
- . Remains of house. (Dr. Martin's).



REMNANT DRIVE — VIEWBANK



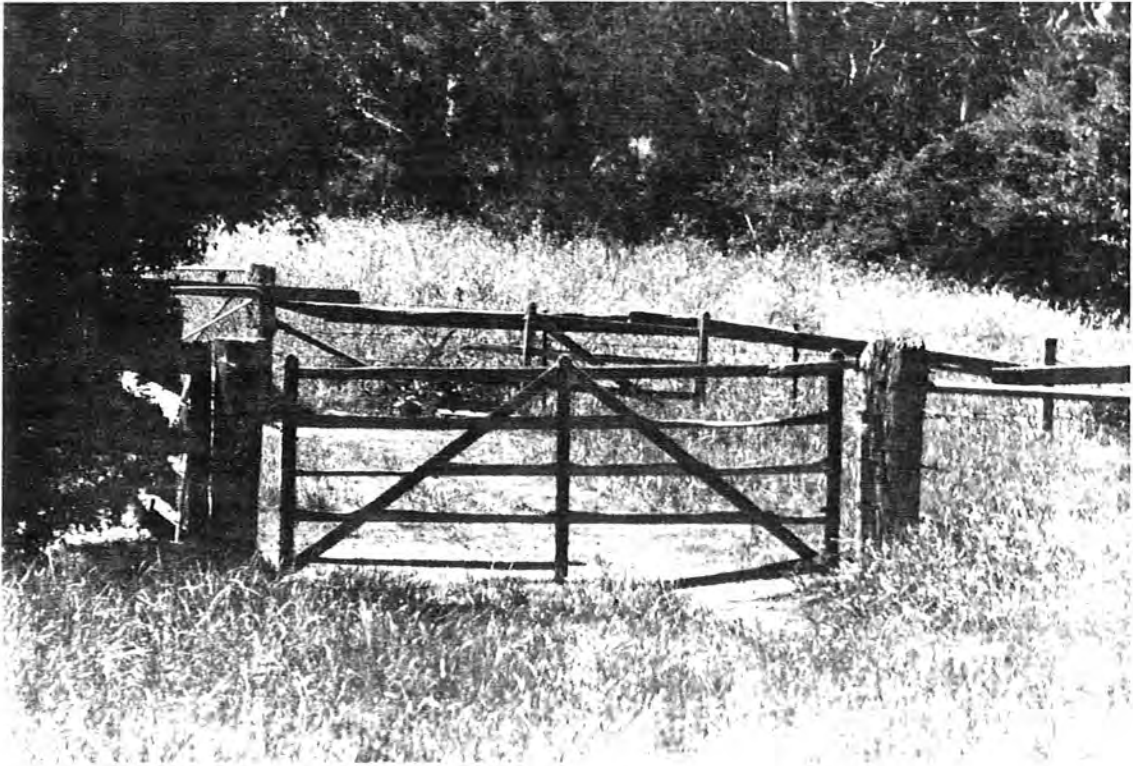
REMNANT FENCE AND CONIFER — VIEWBANK



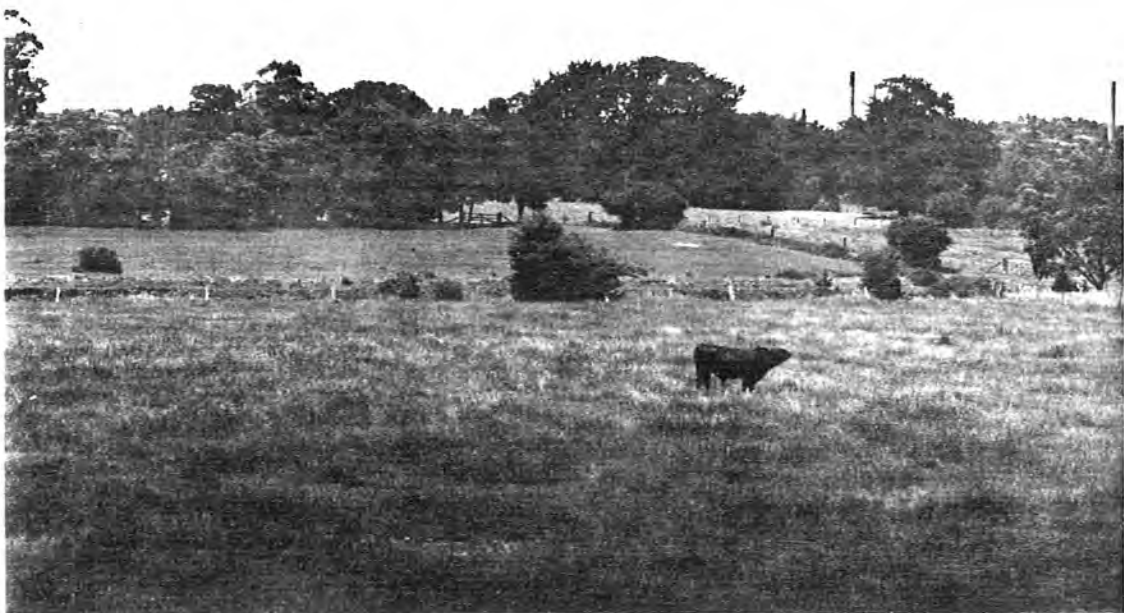
REMNANT TRACK AND TREES — VIEWBANK



REMNANT GARDEN — VIEWBANK



FENCE AND GATES — BANYULE



FENCE LINES, PLANTINGS AND GATES — BANYULE

- . Remains of garden including trees, grass terraces and steps.
- . Avenue of trees to the house.
- . Dairy buildings. These presumably date from the Bartram period (1920's-).
- . Old farm roads
- . Bartram house.
- . Post and wire fencing, presumably of the Bartram period.
- . The silos (early 1930's).
- . Farm building close to silos.
- . Briars, hawthorns etc. on escarpment on Plenty Valley recalling derelict landscapes of later nineteenth century. (Ref. D. Davies Moonlight Templestowe).

Adjacent to precinct:

- . Traditional farm house at 7 Walker Court, home of Walter Withers which appears in the painting Tranquil Winter.

Precinct B1
& B2

- . Bare edged wetlands and general topography (much the same as in the 1850's).
- . Remnants of old internal fences (post and wire) and gates.
- . Entrance gate at Plymouth Street (undated).
- . Old farm shed near Plymouth Street (undated).
- . Group of oaks (*Quercus robur*) part of a larger nineteenth century planting.
- . Other exotic plants, including possible remnants of hedges.
- . Boundary on flat between Banyule and Viewbank and possibly another between the original Banyule (Hogue's) and Hawdon's property.

Adjacent to precinct:

- . Banyule house with garden remnants.
- . Templestowe flats: important aboriginal site.

Precinct B3

- . Warringal wetlands. (Important restoration work by conservationist movement 1970's.)

Precinct B4



MULBERRIES — SILLS BEND



PEAR — SILLS BEND

Precinct B5 (i) Heidelberg Park.

- . Gardens area. Includes many fine old trees and other plants which either are of Victorian or Edwardian vintage, or are in sympathy with those periods; path layout, bluestone lining to Saltwater creek; rock edgings
- . Ridge area. Includes some fine old trees.
- . Cricket ground. Includes remnants of late nineteenth century planting.
- . "Hampstead heath" escarpment.

(ii) St. John's.

- . St. John's Church of England.
- . Layout of drive.
- . Old exotic trees, including conifers relating from nineteenth century.
- . Remains of mill on Yarra.

Precinct B6

- . Remnants of Sill's old orchard (dating back to 1850's) and old oaks.
- . Former bathing beach.
- . Willows edging river (descendants of nineteenth century plantings).
- . Formal poplar plantings around Warringal oval (recent).

Adjacent to precinct

- . Heide (Gallery, garden and original farm house).

Precinct B7

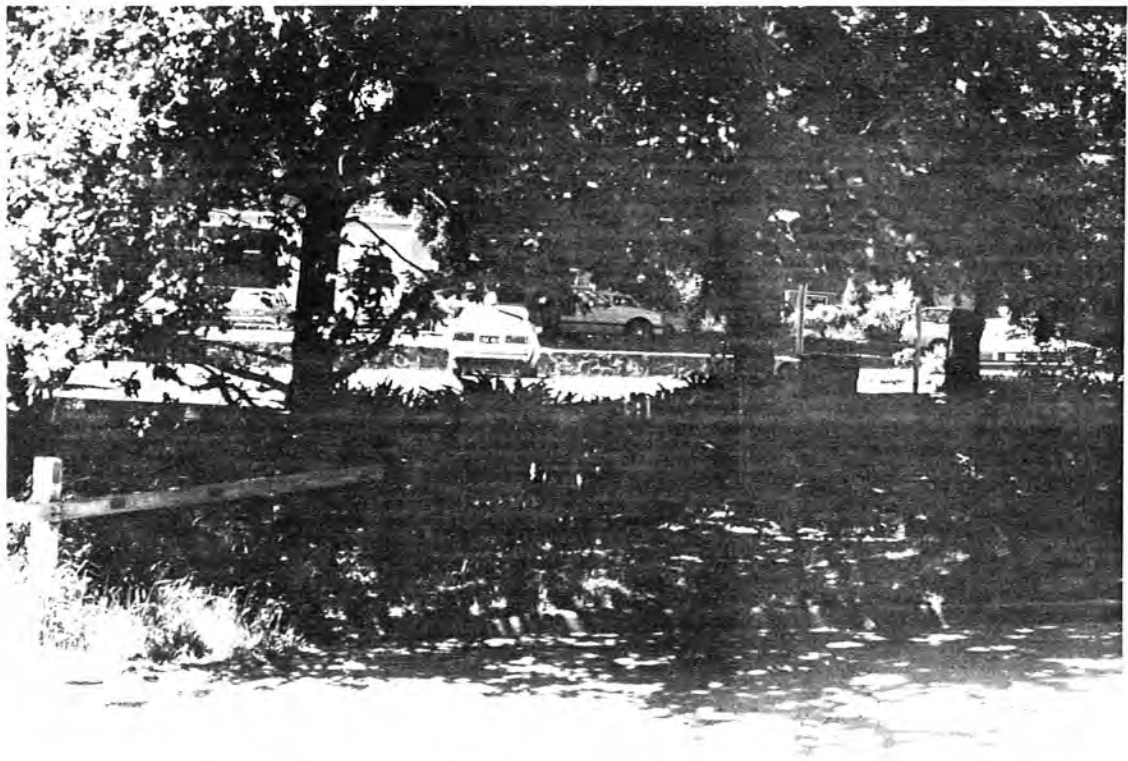
- . Exotic plants including old fruit trees.

Precinct B8

- . -



GATE — ST. JOHNS



FENCING — ST. JOHNS

Precinct Precinct B9/10

- . Billabongs/swamps with bare edges and/or exotic plants especially willows.
- . Aboriginal "stepped" tree.
- . Exotic plants including willows, oaks, elms, hawthorns, gorse, fruit trees, stone pines and palm trees of various dates. The pines are associated with Charterisville (the famous garden was a short distance away); some willows would probably be descendants of McArthur plantings.
- . Various hedges
 - (i) hawthorn and elm hedge on boundary between Charterisville and Hartlands (may be regrowth of early hedge).
 - (ii) various cypress hedges, northern planted by F. Watts (c.1930's).
- . Ditch on Charterisville/Hartlands boundary. Undated.
- . Remains of what is said to be a Chinese water wheel in ditch.
- . This ditch runs from a billabong to the Yarra. May have been made by Chinese market gardeners but may well be older.
- . Remnants of Chinese market gardening terracing?
- . Remnants of old garden with palm tree, probably associated with boathouse C.1919.
- . Foundations of brick dairy of recent date: 1960's.
- . Swimming pool at foot of Charterisville orchard.
- . Swimming pool near Burke Road bridge.

Adjacent to precinct:

- . Mt. Eagle (site of Heidelberg School camp).
- . Charterisville (house of prestige estate built C.1845; site of many artists' camps late nineteenth century).

- . Walter Burley Griffin subdivisions Glenard and Mt. Eagle.
- . Springbank (Clarendon Eyre): house and garden with intact pastoral landscape including billabong, red gums, remnants of old fencing.
- . Vestige of former billabong at Bulleen park with dense vegetation reminiscent of former condition of Bulleen flats.
- . Very old pear trees on river bank, possibly remnants of orchard on Oswin farm, Kew.
- . Bulleen flats generally: site of important tribal and inter-tribal gatherings.

Precinct B11

- . Chelsworth built c. 1859-63; house of prestige estate of that name, now Ivanhoe Public Golf Course Clubhouse.
- . Conifers and oaks associated with entrance to Chelsworth. (Some trees at least nineteenth century.)
- . Steep slope with hawthorns etc. reminiscent of semi-derelict landscapes of nineteenth century.

Precinct B12

- . Wilson 1923 as example of public initiative in gaining parkland, memorial
- . 440 bathing beach.
- . Children's playground designed by Ellis Stones.
- . Various exotic plants.

Precinct C1-C3

- . McGeorge house and grounds. House built 1911, designed by H. Desbrowe Annear. Garden designed by Blamire Young.
- . Waller House and garden. House built 1922-23.
- . Sparks Reserve 1911. (Early park).
- . Elms and osage orange indicate line of old road (the Turnpike Road) to first crossing place of Darebin in this area.

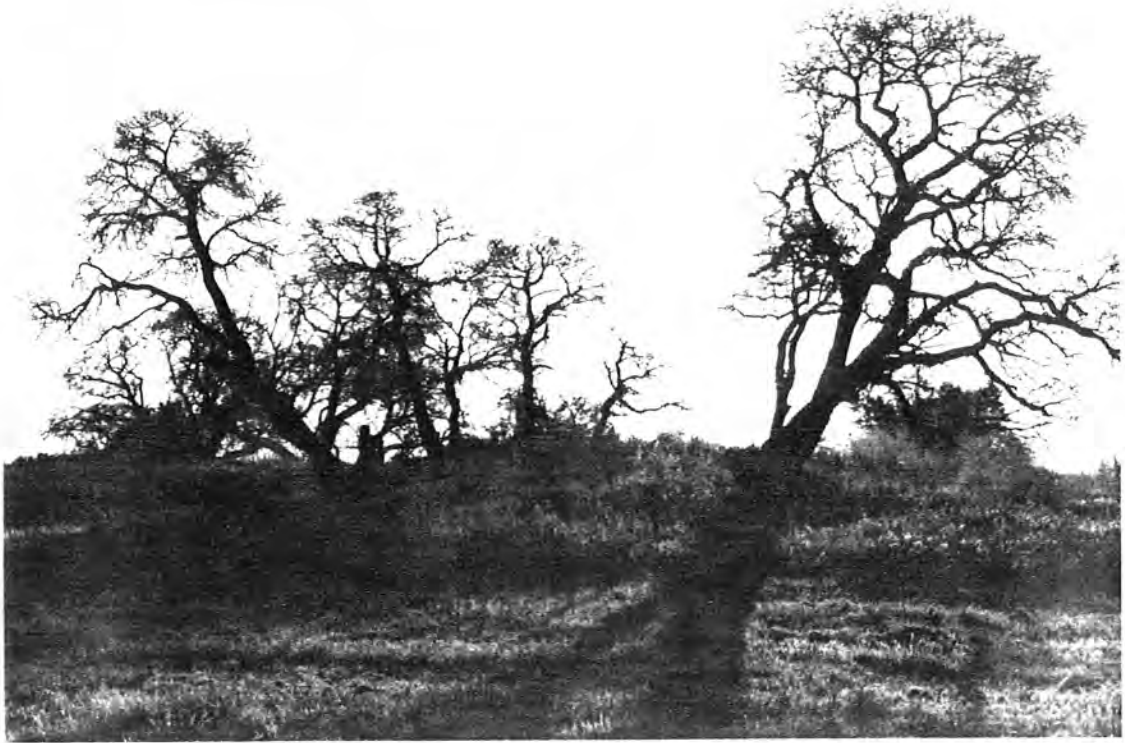
- . Old pine trees to east of Sparks Reserve.
- . Road bridge across Darebin Creek (1863-4).
- . Railway bridge across Darebin Creek C.1912.
- . Former Darebin Bridge Hotel C.1956.

Precinct C4

- . Aboriginal midden at junction of Donaldson's Creek and Darebin.
- . Early waggon track (down Pine Ridge).
- . Pines lining Pine Ridge.
- . Remains of driveway with basalt chips (n.d.) on Northcote side.
- . Remains of former orchard trees including mulberries (Mulberry Spur), olives, oranges, quinces, plums, almonds.
- . Pine ridge, remains of bluestone walling.
- . Other exotics including hawthorns and willows.
- . Swimming holes. (See map).
- . Remains of weirs for irrigation (nineteenth century).
- . Steep slopes on Northcote side - the result of stone dumping from the former quarry.
- . Sections of post and rail fencing.
- . Entrance from Rockbeare Grove designed by Ellis Stones.
- . Planting by Rockbeare Park Conservation Group (1970's), partially under direction of Ellis Stones.

Adjacent to precinct

- . Rockbeare, 8 Locke Street C.1857.
- . "The Toorak of the North": early suburban subdivision 1888 - between Kenilworth Pde. and Waverley Avenue.



MULBERRIES — DAREBIN PARK



WEIR WALL — DAREBIN PARK

Precinct C5-8Upper Darebin.

- . Occasional exotics eg. willows on stream banks.
- . Bridge at Livingstone Street 1914-15.

Adjacent to precinct

- . Ivanhoe Manor, Ford Street. Built 1888.
- . Olympic Village.
- . Old house and trees in Tyler Street, Preston (including Cork oak).



3.05 PLANNING CONTROLS

As a framework for our recommendations and future action, the ownership, land management policies and proposals were investigated in 1983 for this study.

A detailed description of our research findings can be found on the maps following.

There are essentially two main managers of the open space or future open space of the area; Heidelberg Council and the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works. The M.M.B.W. has direct management over the area adjacent to the Boulevard between Burke Road and Banksia Street; a small parcel of land north of Banksia Street for which we believe negotiations are in hand with Heidelberg and the Viewbank property north to Bannockburn Road. The remainder is under Heidelberg management. The Middle Yarra Advisory Council has influence over the lands adjacent to the Yarra within the study area.

Some segments of the study area are in private ownership, notably Rosanna Golf Club, the area between Wilson Reserve and Sparks Reserve and smaller parcels along the Plenty River.

Planning studies are available for the Plenty River area, the Yarra River and Lower Banyule Creek areas and Banyule Parklands. These studies have varying degrees of status and have been subject to some review. The most recent is the 1983 "Plenty River & Banyule Creek Study" by Gerner, Sanderson, Faggetter & Cheesman and commissioned by Heidelberg City Council. Detailed proposals for that area are best found in that report.

"The Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park Master Plan" by Scott & Furphy is still the only official overall document for its area. The M.M.B.W. do have more detail action plans for some of its areas of control. These plans are subject to review by the M.Y.A.C. and Heidelberg City Council but while they may vary from the Master Plan have not been subject to the extensive community discussions held in the first round.

The "Yarra River Study, Dights Falls to Burke Road" by a working party of the M.Y.A.C. was completed in 1983. It contains considerable detailed analysis and proposals for its area.

We have not been advised of its current status. The Chelsworth Park Association - a residents' community group - have also undertaken studies and presented various recommendations for this area.

The "Darebin Parklands Masterplan" was completed in 1977 by the Centre for Environmental Studies. It has been the guiding document for the community based work in that area. This report is now out of date and the area should be reviewed as a result of this study.

We understand that there is no overall study for the Darebin Creek. However an extensive revegetation program is in hand using predominately native species. A Heidelberg City Council paper has been prepared for the area; it identifies picnic areas, the planting program and a State Bicycle Committee proposal for a major bikepath project.

Summary of Policies.

- M.M.B.W.:
- Emphasis on accessibility and facilities for regional recreation within a framework that protects main natural features.
 - General use of indigenous material. Development of wetlands. Can be a tendency to tidy up too much.
 - Current proposals, understandably do not reflect or respect historical values of the area this study is highlighting.
- HEIDELBERG:
- No apparent overall landscape policy for the area. Traditionally mixed plantings - usually without structural design. Recent trend to "clean-up" and revegetate with native species. Understandably actions relate to each area individually not to an overall picture.

4.01 SELECTION OF PRECINCTS

In undertaking an analysis of the existing landscape character as described previously in section 3.03 we divided the study area into a number of units of similar landscape characteristics. We have referred to these as "precincts" and have used them throughout the study to focus detailed historical research and our recommendations.

It is critical we believe that our recommendations are not only sound but that they have the potential to create a strong and coherent landscape picture.

We found that the units, as analysed during the site survey, already reflected historical involvement and therefore we have only found a need to undertake minor adjustments from the initial survey to accommodate the historical research.

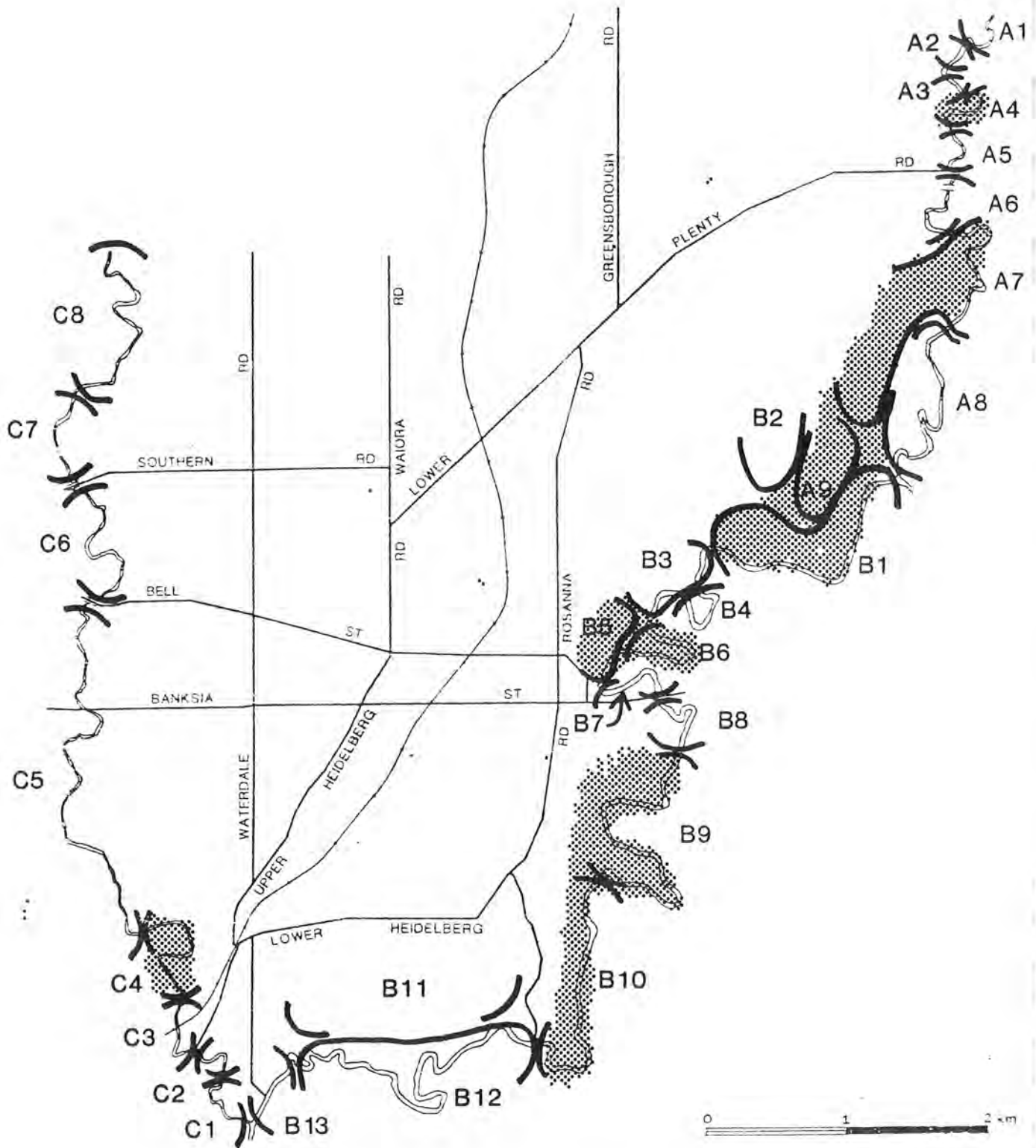
In presenting this report we have gone back over our initial site survey and adjusted our descriptions to suit each landscape unit following our historical research. We have adopted the following definitions as an explanation:

'Precincts are areas of similar landscape characteristics being a combination of historical influences, existing land use, land form, vegetation characteristics.'

Within the context of our recommendations our definition of precincts could be changed slightly to read:

'Precincts are areas of similar landscape characteristics being a combination of historical influences, existing land-use, land form, vegetation characteristics; and accommodating opportunities or constraints, for change, conservation and preservation.'

In the remainder of this section we focus initially upon those precincts which our research has established as being of outstanding historical importance, presenting in further detail our historical findings. These notes are then followed by our recommendations for each precinct.



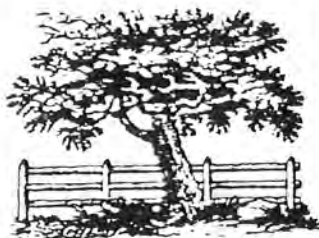
PRECINCTS REVIEWED IN DETAIL



PLENTY RIVER PRECINCTS: A1-A8

YARRA RIVER PRECINCTS: B1-B13

DAREBIN CREEK PRECINCTS: C1-C8



Heidelberg

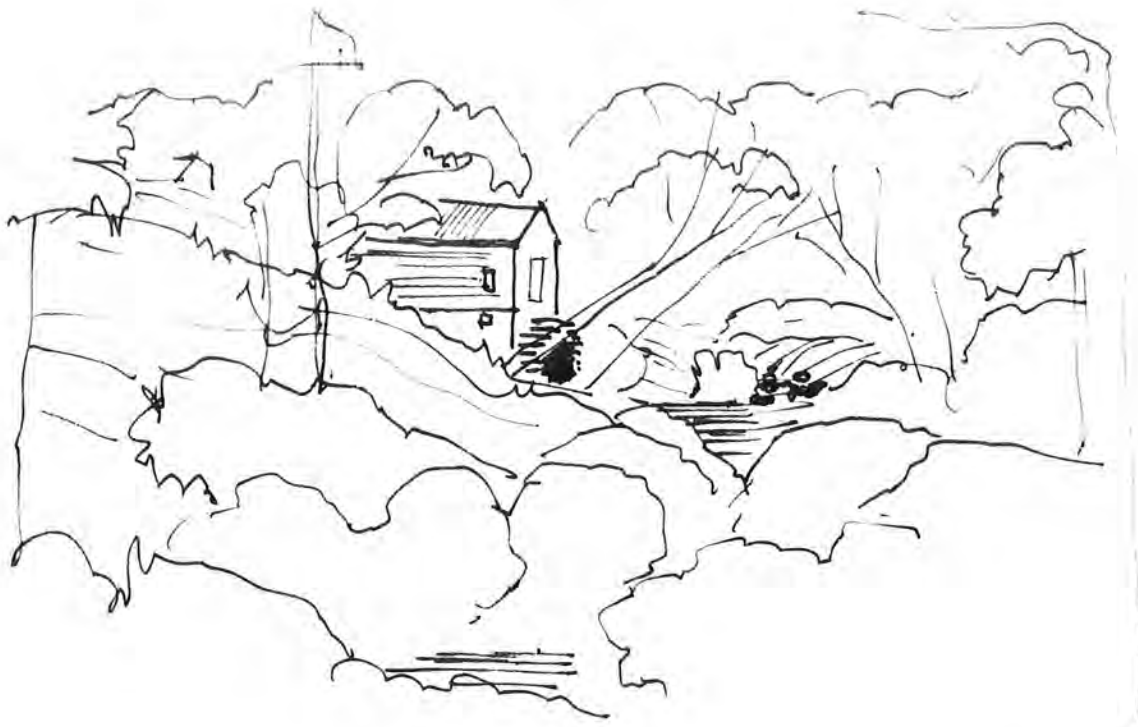
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

**LANDSCAPE
PRECINCTS**

DETAIL



NO 1000



4.02

PRECINCT DESCRIPTION

1859 MILL ON THE PLENTY

*(from a "Pictorial History of Heidelberg")***PRECINCT A4 YALLAMBIE PARK**

Yallambie was initially referred to as the Plenty, or the Station Plenty; it apparently acquired the name Yallambie Park at a later date (probably during the Wragge's time). For information on the establishment of the property's boundaries, and on John and Robert Bakewell, the first owners (c.1840-1872) and on the Wragge family (1872-unknown) see Donald Garden's Heidelberg.

A. The BAKEWELL period is the most historically significant in the story of Yallambie.¹

- On the ridge the Bakewells placed a pre-fabricated house and to the north and west various farm buildings. These buildings changed with the development of the property from the 1840's into the 1850's.
- They established a charming garden in a picturesque and informal style. It sounds as if the first plantings were on the hill but during the 1850's the garden extended from along the south side of the house down to and onto the flat, on either side of a very long flight of simply constructed wood and earth (?) steps. To the east and north of the house there was a lawn of kangaroo grass, with scattered trees and shrubs, which perhaps included local wattles.
- The banks of the Plenty were virtually cleared of the native vegetation. On the south side of the



Edward Latrobe Bateman c.1815-1897 Australian
The Station 'Plenty', View I, (Distant View of Station
with cattle in Foreground)
Pencil drawing heightened with white on buff coloured paper
18.7 x 27.3 cm.
Felton Bequest 1960



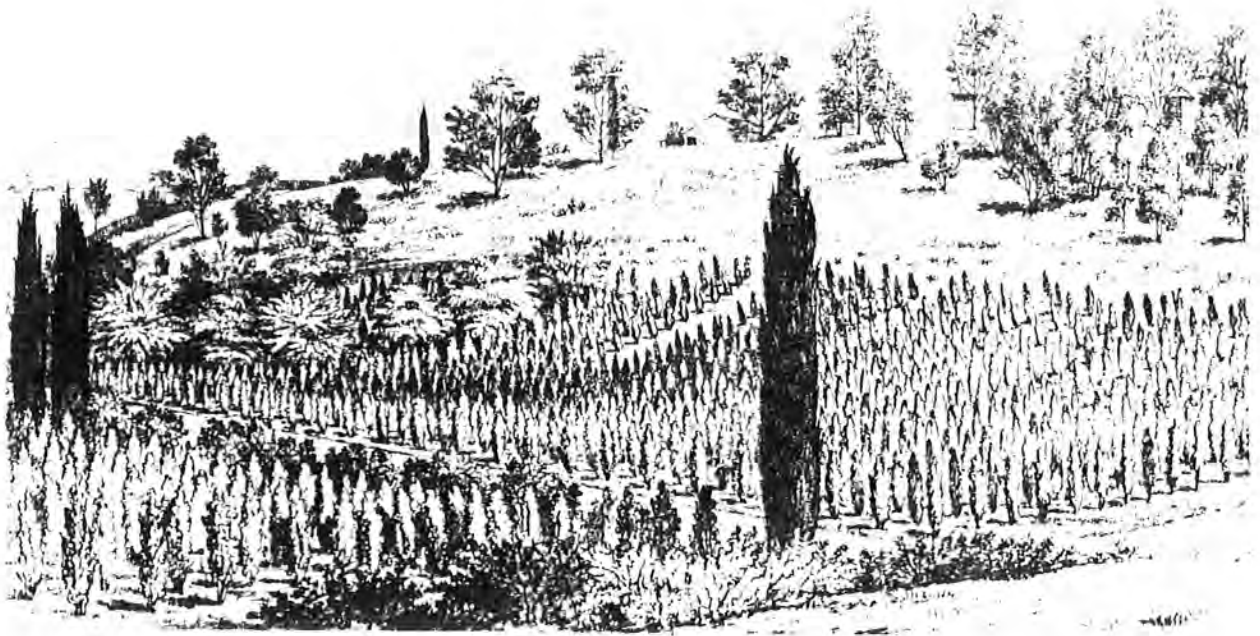
Edward Latrobe Bateman c.1815-1897 Australian
View of the Station 'Plenty', View VI, (Distant view of
station on hill with creek in foreground)
Pencil drawing heightened with white on buff coloured paper
18.7 x 27.3 cm.
Felton Bequest 1960

Yallambie peninsula exotic trees and shrubs replaced the local plants. The exotics included conifers, weeping willows and other deciduous trees, a palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), N.Z. flax (*Phormium tenax*), dracaenas and what looks like *Arundo donax* in a careful and rich composition. Part of this planting appears to have been on the banks of the Plenty itself, part around the foot of the steps. It is not quite clear how far this garden planting of the bank continued: perhaps no further than where, at present, the pattern of vegetation suggests. This is not to say, of course, that the Bakewells might not have intended to have clothed more of the banks with imported plants. Bateman's pictures of the 1850's show, however, areas along the Plenty kept generally clear of any major plants, native or foreign. It is not known when the oaks on the north side of the flat were planted, unfortunately.

- . Grape vines were grown on a large part of the slope to the flat in the 1840's and apparently also in the early 1850's, but they may have been displaced by hops later. Orchard trees were also planted up the slope.
- . Grape Vines, hops and fruit trees also grew on the flat and vegetables also. Indeed the flat below the house was intensively cultivated. William Howitt, in writing of his visit to the Bakewells, lists many fruits, vegetables and
- . Ornaments grown in Victoria and probably most, if not all, were to be found at the Plenty Station on the flat, slope and eminence above it.
- . Across the Plenty, in great contrast to the garden on the flat, lay "duskily pleasant woods", eucalypts with, on the banks of the river, an understorey which included tea trees (*Leptospermum* species, *Melaleuca* species) *Olearia* species, and native currant (*Coprosma quadrifida*) as well as ferns and grasses.
- . North of the flat described, and south of it too possibly, the riverland along the Plenty appears to have been used by the Bakewells as pasture with scattered native trees remaining.

The ESSENCE of the BAKEWELL landscape:

1. The sharp contrast between the richly varied hill, slope and flat with its buildings and foreign plantings with the dusky woods across the river and the cleared pastureland to the north. (Some sense of this could easily be restored).



Edward Latrobe Bateman c.1815-1897 Australian
 View of the Station 'Plenty', View VII (Plantation of
 Lombardy poplars) * *Research indicates a hop plantation.*
 Pencil drawing heightened with white on buff coloured paper
 18.7 x 27.3 cm.
 Felton Bequest 1960



Edward Latrobe Bateman c.1815-1897 Australian
 View of the Station 'Plenty', View XII (Distant view
 of hut with creek in foreground)
 Pencil drawing heightened with white on buff coloured paper
 19.2 x 27.3 cm.
 Felton Bequest 1960

2. The very different appearance of the slope up from the flat from today's. There were no conifers and no line of demarcation between flat and slope. Plantings of fruit trees, garden plants and hops all continued from the flat to about half way up the slope where there was a sudden transition to grassland and trees (except on the south or garden side). (This cannot, of course, be restored).
3. A most happy interweaving of the ornamental with the utilitarian. This can be seen in the way *Cupressus sempervirens* were used as accents in a landscape of vines, hops, fruit trees etc. (an evocation of Italy perhaps?); in the blending of fruit trees and purely ornamental plants, in the delightful flowery setting of the tool shed at the foot of the slope, and, of course, in the juxtaposition of the richly decorated river bank with crops.

Early Australian farming landscape were usually almost wholly utilitarian: the fact that the owners of the prestige estates wished and could afford to ornament their estates as well made Heidelberg a very special place in the 1840's and 1850's. How typical of the estates the Plenty Station was it is difficult to determine precisely. Charterisville seems to have been similar in spirit, as far as can be judged.

This blending of ornamental and utilitarian cannot be recovered but it could be evoked by some partial reconstruction of garden and orchard planting on the basis of the Bateman pictures.

Key pictures:

ANON: "Home belonging to John and Robert Bakewell", n.d. (early 1840's)

BATEMAN, Edward Latrobe: "Views of the Station 'Plenty'" (between 1852 and 1857)

B. The WRAGGE period is also of very great historical interest.²

- . the new and grander house still in existence was built between 1872 and 1875-6;
- . the slope, to the flat, perhaps steepened by erosion, was planted with conifers, completely transforming the scene. The Bateman pictures almost certainly rule out the Bakewells having planted these. It seems unlikely that the Wragges would have planted them before they bought the property. An article of 1981 (HHS file) states that the bunya pine on the flat was given to Wragge by Von Mueller.

- . the Wragges appear likely to have been responsible for the road planting of hawthorn and quercus palustris on the north;
- . not much information has been found on how the Wragges used the flat. They certainly maintained or even replanted the orchard of the Bakewells, and it is said that there were still market gardens on the flat.

Key pictures:

None.

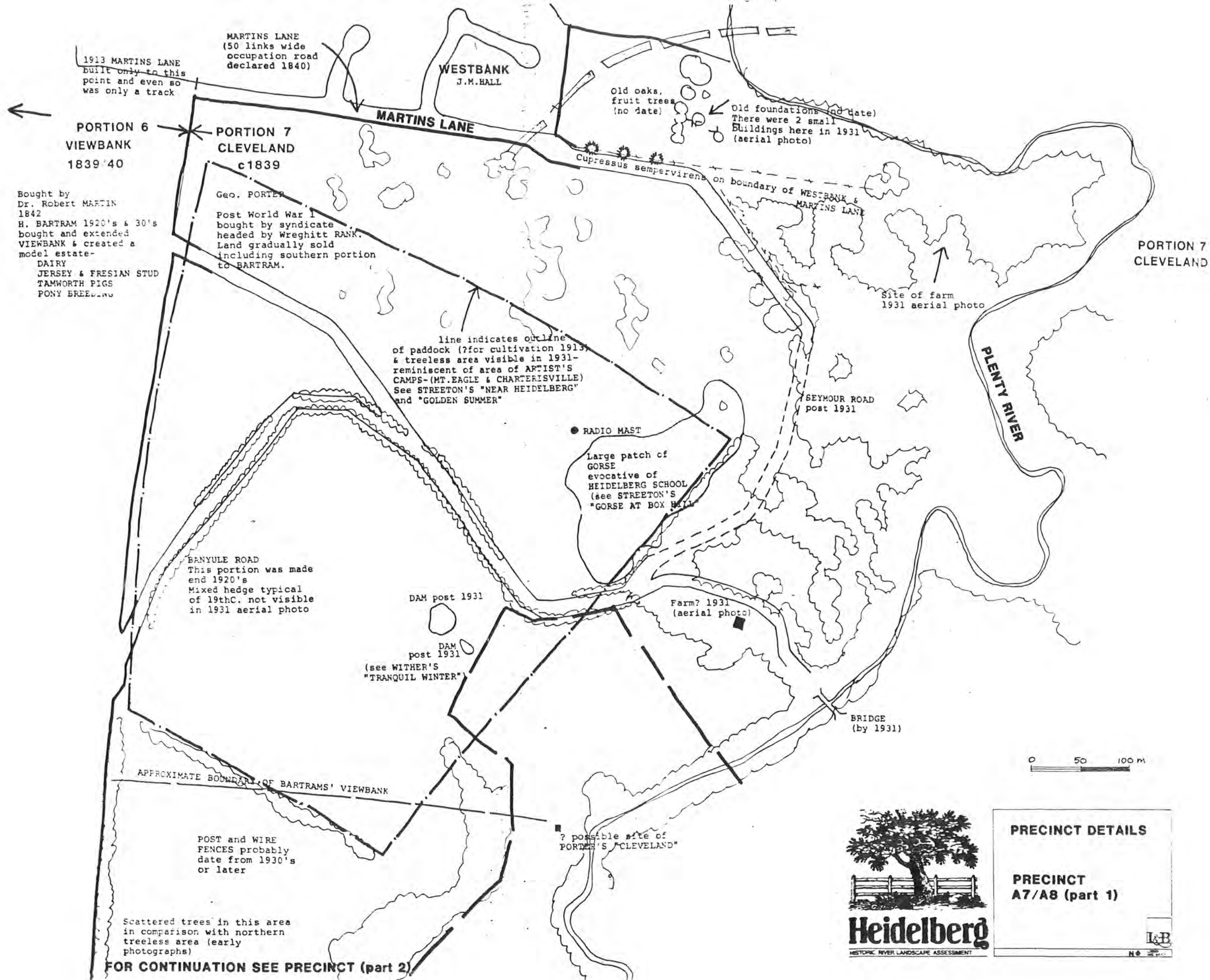
C. By 1914 hawthorn thickets had appeared on Yallambie. Hawthorns and other garden escapes colonised the area as they had done elsewhere in Heidelberg. (The prickly pear on the north of the flat is quite likely a descendant of a Bakewell plant). Apart from the attractiveness of some of these escapes they can act as a reminder of the past and, in the Heidelberg area have a specific importance in evoking the landscape known to the Heidelberg School.

Key pictures:

None.

PRECINCT A7 & A8 - BANNOCKBURN ROAD SOUTH TO VIEWBANK HILL

The area north of the Yarra around the Plenty River was of importance to the aborigines. Scarred trees remain, especially to the east of the Plenty on the Eltham river flats. White settlement saw the creation of estates, Westbank, Viewbank and Cleveland, all dating from the late 1830's or early 1840's. (For details see Garden op.cit.). All three, but especially Viewbank and Cleveland, belonged to the prestige estates of Heidelberg which were so famed in the 1840's and 1850's and which survived for a long time after. Cleveland and Viewbank we know became increasingly ill-maintained, even derelict in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Yet this stage is of the greatest historical interest, since it is the time of the Heidelberg school. The uplands of Cleveland and Viewbank formed part of the 'dear gold hills' surrounding the Yarra Valley which were an endless source of fascination for these artists and many of those who followed them. Now that Mt. Eagle, Charterisville and the hills east across the Yarra have been converted by suburbia, this area alone reminds us of the domed, rather bare shapes and only here may we have some sense of what it was like to be in the landscape the artists knew. This area is above all associated with Walter Withers, who lived close by for a time (see Map E).



1913 MARTINS LANE built only to this point and even so was only a track

MARTINS LANE (50 links wide occupation road declared 1840)

WESTBANK J.M. HALL

Old oaks, fruit trees (no date)

Old foundations (no date) There were 2 small buildings here in 1931 (aerial photo)

PORTION 6 VIEWBANK 1839/40

PORTION 7 CLEVELAND c1839

Bought by Dr. Robert MARTIN 1842 H. BARTRAM 1920's & 30's bought and extended VIEWBANK & created a model estate - DAIRY JERSEY & FRESIAN STUD TAMWORTH PIGS PONY BREEDING

Geo. PORTER Post World War I bought by syndicate headed by Wreghitt RANK. Land gradually sold including southern portion to BARTRAM.

PORTION 7 CLEVELAND

Site of farm 1931 aerial photo

line indicates outline of paddock (for cultivation 1913) & treeless area visible in 1931 - reminiscent of area of ARTIST'S CAMPS - (MT. EAGLE & CHARTERISVILLE) See STREETON'S "NEAR HEIDELBERG" and "GOLDEN SUMMER"

SEYMOUR ROAD post 1931

RADIO MAST

Large patch of GORSE evocative of HEIDELBERG SCHOOL (see STREETON'S "GORSE AT BOX HILL")

BANYULE ROAD This portion was made end 1920's Mixed hedge typical of 19thC. not visible in 1931 aerial photo

Farm? 1931 (aerial photo)

DAM post 1931

DAM post 1931 (see WITHER'S "TRANQUIL WINTER")

BRIDGE (by 1931)

APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY OF BARTRAMS' VIEWBANK

POST and WIRE FENCES probably date from 1930's or later

? possible site of PORTER'S "CLEVELAND"

Scattered trees in this area in comparison with northern treeless area (early photographs)



PRECINCT DETAILS

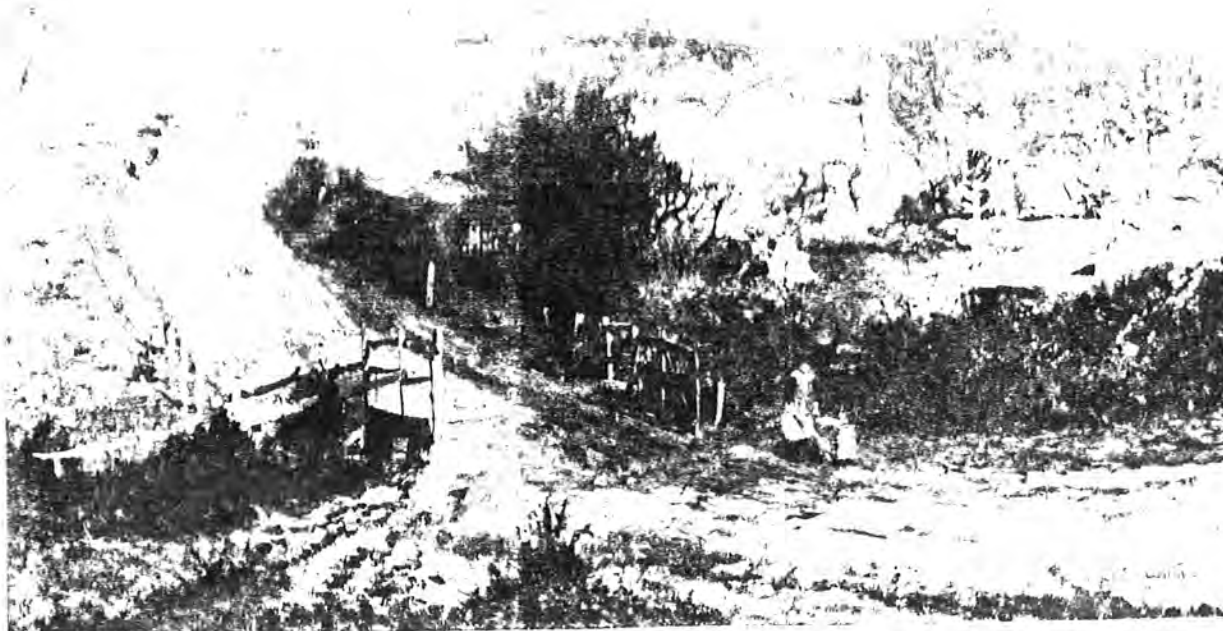
PRECINCT A7/A8 (part 1)

L&B

FOR CONTINUATION SEE PRECINCT (part 2)

Characteristics of the Landscape towards the end of the Nineteenth Century

- . For the most part this landscape was grassland with occasional clumps of trees or isolated specimens, often magnificent red gums or isolated specimens, as are still seen.¹ Indeed, probably overall, the effect was much as it is today, but detailed information is unfortunately lacking e.g. for the Seymour Road area.
- . Some of the pasture may have been improved but most would probably have been native pasture in which exotic weeds mingled with wild flowers. (See History Part IV).
- . Briars, hawthorns and gorse spotted parts of the land,² especially on steep places, giving a derelict air, as is still seen on parts of the Viewbank escarpment and elsewhere.
- . Roads: Banyule Road and Seymour Road did not exist. The eastern section of Martins' Lane was a very rough track.³ (The whole was still only a narrow gravelled track in 1948).⁴ There was no bridge at the present Banyule Road crossing but there may have been one lower down the Plenty with tracks east and west of it (see Map E).
- . Paths were those made by the feet of humans and animals (One such path still exists along the top of the eastern escarpment at Viewbank.) (See eg. Withers "Farmer's Girl" 1892).
- . Fencing: post and rail (two or three rail) were very typical of the Heidelberg area. Post and wire could also have been found and wire was used to strengthen post and rail. Fences with sheep proof netting are also a possibility (see details).
- . Hedges: the beautiful mixed hedge along Banyule Road probably dates from the 1930's.⁵ Martin's Lane in the 1940's was known as Hawthorn Lane.⁶
- . Dams: there is no evidence that any existed at this period on this particular piece of land. Existing ones (post 1931)⁷ provide a welcome allusion to the famous one nearby painted by Walter Withers in "Tranquil Winter".
- . Houses and farm buildings, would have been few. With the exception of Viewbank, they would have been simple traditional buildings. Withers' house was probably typical and would often have been a part of the group of farm buildings. A garden



Walter Withers 1854-1914 Australian
 A Bright Winter's Morning, 1894
 Oil on canvas
 60.5 x 91.2 cm.
 Bequeathed by Mrs Nina Sheppard 1956



Walter Withers 1854-1914 Australian
 Tranquil Winter, 1895
 Oil on canvas
 75.4 x 122.4 cm.
 Purchased 1895

with a few fruit trees and perhaps a hawthorn or other hedge about it was probably attached to each house. (See Withers' "A Bright Winter's Morn").

- . Viewbank, on the other hand, was more substantial, although no rival to Banyule. It was, however, a gentleman's house, in a superb position and set in what had been a superb garden, with a long avenue of fine trees to the gate. The grass terraces at the front of the house suggest that the garden was more formal than that of the Plenty Station (Yallambie), but these terraces do combine the geometric shaping of the Victorian terrace with a layout which is beautifully adapted to the natural contours of the hillside, suggesting a combination of formality and informality in approach. This notable garden was perhaps enclosed in a picket fence, possibly combined with a hedge.

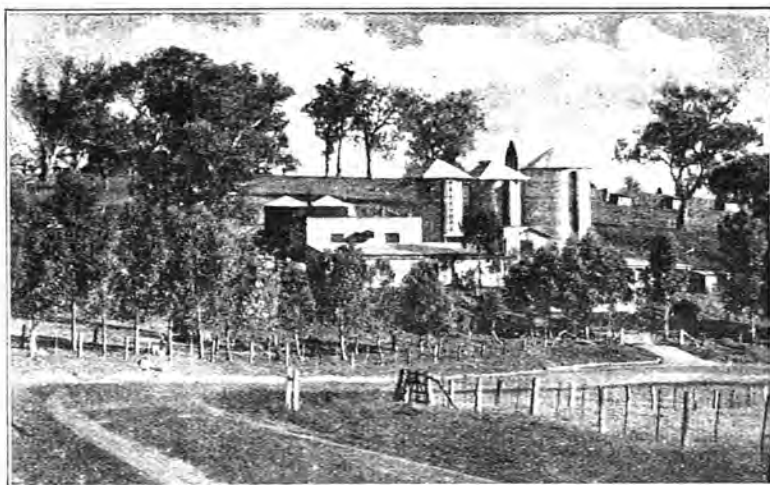
Dr. Martin had died in 1874 and the house and garden were neglected. They were to become quite derelict but they would still have had a major impact on the landscape of the Heidelberg School.

- . Westbank. The history of this estate, lying north of Martin's Lane, with a frontage to the Plenty, remains obscure. The remnants of an old garden^b and of two small buildings have not been dated. It is tempting to imagine that the old trees, or at least some of them - were part of the garden around the original "pretty cottage" built on J.M. Hall's estate in the early 1840's. Certainly the oaks and more particularly the three Cupressus Sempervirens along Martin's Lane are far more evocative of a gentleman's garden, than of that of some later tenant farmer or leaseholder.

The ESSENCE of the late Nineteenth Century Landscape.

1. Of great importance was the sense of space, a degree of emptiness and openness which allowed in turn a heightened consciousness both of the distances around and of the sky above. (This spaciousness must have been one of the great attractions of Heidelberg to the urban artists who came to Mt. Eagle and Charterisville, where the effect was very similar.)
2. The area was (and remained) rural in feeling: a pastoral landscape. It was uncluttered and its buildings, fences, roads and paths were functional.
3. The area also contained, however, the ornaments of a period which had not been purely utilitarian - the house at Viewbank, its garden and avenue, the exotic plants and hedges reminiscent of the British Isles.

The Mansion has gone: lost in fire, but the sites remain now more beautiful with willow, oak and elm.



If the crops finish as they look at present there will be enough to fill 3 silos with 700 tons of silage and retain a stack of hay as well.


The Auctioneers of "VIEW-BANK" recognise the fact that they have in their hands what is from many aspects the outstanding property in this State. "VIEWBANK" asks for a beautiful home or homes to complete a work of natural art. As a Stud Farm property, either in part or whole, it could hardly be bettered, and the same may be said of it for a business man's home. Completely rural in character and surroundings, an English countryside set down on the outskirts of an Australian city, "VIEWBANK" is one thing that cannot be matched.

Section of "Viewbank" with the Plenty Flats.



SEPT. 1936 BROCHURE
RESALE OF VIEW BANK
Heidelberg Historical Society collection.

- Existing tracks
- . - . 1931 Tracks only unless otherwise specified
- xxxxxxx 1850's Track


 WALTER WITHERS HOUSE
 seen from north east in "TRANQUIL WINTER" 1895

FOR CONTINUATION SEE PRECINCT A7/A8 (part 1)

Scattered trees in this area in comparison with northern treeless area (early photographs)

FARM BUILDINGS (undated - post 1931)

COTTAGE by 1931

Old post and wire fences probably 1930's

Escarpment with Cuccs (southern area) briars suggesting derelict landscape 1850's - (See especially paintings of David DAVIES)

ROSANNA GOLF COURSE 1963
 In 1931, this was grazing land, denuded of trees except along the banks of the Plenty. The original tree cover would have been removed early, for this land was under crop from the early 1850's, if not before. Grazing of dairy cattle took over after the great flood of December, 1863.

Slopes with briars, etc - semi derelict type of landscape seen especially in David DAVIES paintings

A photo 1931 shows river flat devoid of vegetation except along Plenty
 It would have been cleared by 1850's

PRECINCT BOUNDARY

FARM BUILDINGS (Bartram Farm 1920's-)

SILOS post 1931 pre 1936

VIEWBANK

Former drive-broken planting

1931 Faint track

Grass terracing

HOUSE SITE

Recent euc. planting (since 1931)

Steps & steps

Remains of farm building n.d.

CLEVELAND

There were more eucalypts earlier in the century on this side of the hill

Note: 1931 A.ph. shows distinct difference in grass tone as indicated by shading (less distinct on east)

Garden was probably fenced rather than hedged

Former hedge A.ph. 1931

The last of STREETON'S "dear gold hills"

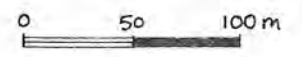
Hawthorns recently removed by MMBW related to the same derelict landscape

YARRA RIVER

Remnants of old fencing on VIEWBANK

Cupressus sempervirens

PLENTY RIVER



PRECINCT DETAILS

PRECINCT A7 (part 2), A8, A9



Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



FOR CONTINUATION PRECINCT A1, A2

4. Thus the landscape here, as elsewhere in Heidelberg, combined a sense of the past across the sea with the space, colours and light of the Australia which lay outside the cities.
5. Although so close to Melbourne, it was a backwater, derelict in parts, with a quietness which would normally have been found in places more remote.

Twentieth Century Developments. (Ref. Maps E & F and related chapters of the history.)⁹

The establishment of the new Viewbank of the Bartram family, encompassing much of the old Cleveland, involved many changes.

- . A new house and cottage were built (the old Viewbank was demolished during World War I).
- . New farm buildings of the most modern type were built, many forming a quite picturesque group where the three silos, built in the 1930's, still stand.
- . Pasture improvement was undertaken on the flats.
- . New fencing - post and wire - was constructed.

Despite such changes the landscape still retained much of its old character in many parts. Later developments, like the wireless mast, the artificial golf course planting on the east and the creeping blight of suburbia on the west were far more damaging, although the planting of a mixed hedge along the new Banyule Road was an inspired gesture towards incorporating the new into the old Heidelberg.

Key pictures for this area include:

Walter WITHERS:

- "Tranquil Winter" 1895 (painted nearby)
- "Tranquil Pastures" c.1910
- "The Coming Storm" or "The Last of Summer" 1898
- "A Bright Winter's Morn" 1894

Arthur STREETON:

- "Near Heidelberg" 1889
 - "Golden Summer" 1889
- Both were painted at Eaglemont but evoke much the same atmosphere that would have existed in this precinct.

David DAVIES:

- "Moonrise Templestowe" 1894 (derelict character).

PRECINCT B1 BANYULE AND VIEWBANK FLATS

This precinct covers the river flats of Viewbank, a portion of those which once belonged to Banyule and a small part of the extensive flats on both sides of the Plenty which were once part of Cleveland. These flats, like those elsewhere in the district, must have been highly valued by the aborigines (see Part I of the history); for the white proprietors of the prestige estates they were, for many years, the most important part of their extensive properties.

Sheep appear to have grazed at Banyule in the 1840's, and at Viewbank too, but the flats were to be famous for their range of excellent crops. During the period of the gold rushes they were intensively cultivated. (See Parts II and III of the history and Maps B and C.) From about 1864 the flats were converted to pasture for dairy cattle and the grazing of cattle, whether for dairying or stud purposes, has remained their land use down to the present day. The estates suffered under different degrees of neglect and for different periods after the change to dairying. Gordon Lyon worked Banyule up into a fine estate after he took it over in 1903 but Viewbank and Cleveland had to wait until much later. But, as already stated in connection with Precinct A7, it is the period of least prosperity - the period of the Mt. Eagle and the Charterisville Camps - which now takes first place, although the historical importance of the earlier period must not be neglected.

Characteristics of the Landscape towards the end of the Nineteenth Century

- . the topography appears not to have altered greatly over the period of white settlement, as evidenced by comparison of a map of the 1850's with today's aerial maps.¹ (This remark does not, of course, apply to Precinct B2). The billabong and Swamp occupied much the same areas as today. Perhaps the little stream wandered more freely over the flats than it does today.
- . in the 1840's the native vegetation was cleared from the flats.² (This was not the case on the uplands at that time, since it was the flats which were first cultivated.) This clearance extended to the water's edge at Banyule and probably elsewhere too, although possibly an occasional specimen or clump of trees may have been left.
- . Exotic ornamental trees were planted on the flats, at least at Banyule and quite probably elsewhere. An early picture of Banyule shows a group of what appear to be young trees, in a fenced enclosure at the foot of the escarpment.³ Perhaps they were indigenous trees retained but they could have been

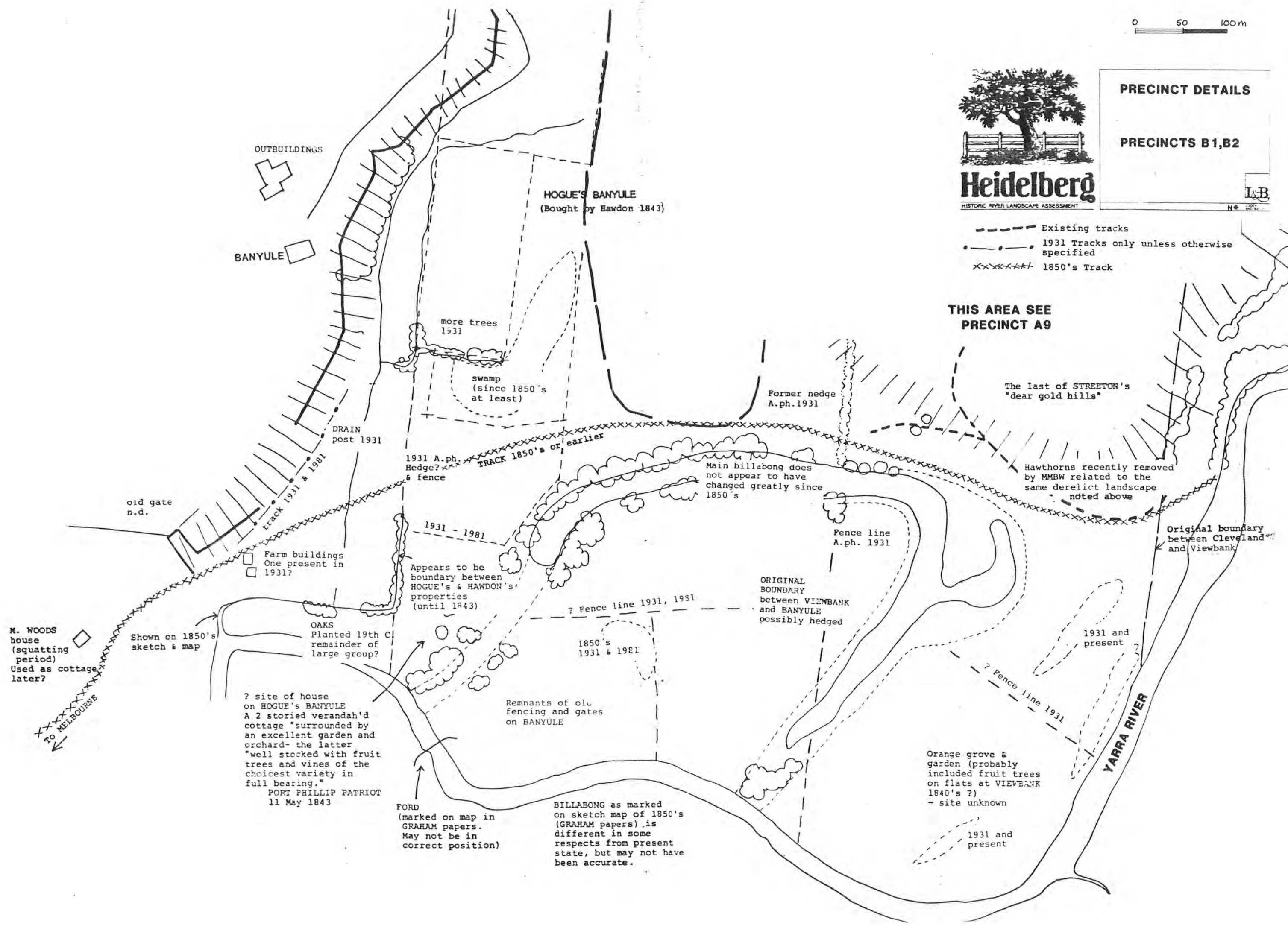


Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

PRECINCT DETAILS
PRECINCTS B1,B2

- Existing tracks
- - - 1931 Tracks only unless otherwise specified
- xxxxxxx 1850's Track

THIS AREA SEE PRECINCT A9



OUTBUILDINGS
BANYULE

HOGUE'S BANYULE
(Bought by Hawdon 1843)

more trees
1931
swamp
(since 1850's
at least)

Former hedge
A.ph.1931

The last of STREETON'S
"dear gold hills"

Hawthorns recently removed
by MMBW related to the
same derelict landscape
noted above

Original boundary
between Cleveland
and Viewbank

old gate
n.d.

DRAIN
post 1931

1931 A.ph.
Hedge? & fence
TRACK 1850's or earlier

Main billabong does
not appear to have
changed greatly since
1850's

Fence line
A.ph. 1931

ORIGINAL
BOUNDARY
between VIEWBANK
and BANYULE
possibly hedged

1931 - 1981

Appears to be
boundary between
HOGUE'S & HAWDON'S
properties
(until 1843)

? Fence line 1931, 1931

1850's
1931 & 1981

Remnants of old
fencing and gates
on BANYULE

BILLABONG as marked
on sketch map of 1850's
(GRAHAM papers) is
different in some
respects from present
state, but may not have
been accurate.

FORD
(marked on map in
GRAHAM papers.
May not be in
correct position)

Orange grove &
garden (probably
included fruit trees
on flats at VIEWBANK
1840's ?)
- site unknown

1931 and
present

1931 and
present

M. WOODS
house
(squatting
period)
Used as cottage
later?

Shown on 1850's
sketch & map

OAKS
Planted 19th C
remainder of
large group?

? site of house
on HOGUE'S BANYULE
A 2 storied verandah'd
cottage "surrounded by
an excellent garden and
orchard- the latter
"well stocked with fruit
trees and vines of the
choicest variety in
full bearing."
PORT PHILLIP PATRIOT
11 May 1843

To MELBOURNE

YARRA RIVER

exotics, planted for ornament. Oaks and elms were planted at Banyule, in the 1840's or 1850's,⁵ and a few specimens of these species are still to be found on the flats. A regiment of sturdy oak trees existed near the river in 1934. This suggests a substantial number and perhaps an ordered rather than a naturalistic planting. Willows had also been planted at Banyule in the 1840's or 1850's,⁶ although just when is not known, but it is quite probable that they were found along the Yarra here, planted both for decoration and against erosion. All this suggests that there were probably more exotic trees in this precinct at the time of the Heidelberg School than now but probably more indigenous plants now than then, (certainly of course, along the river.)

- . Fruit trees had been planted on these flats in the 1840's - 1850's, including Viewbank's orange grove. There were probably survivals of these plantings in the last decades of the nineteenth century.
- . There may still have been cottages and farm buildings on the flats also, dating from the early years of settlement.⁷
- . Roads: no public roads as such lay in the area but the old track which ran from Heidelberg to the Plenty and up may still have existed; there had been a fenced farm road on Banyule to the lagoon and a water access road running on the property line between Banyule and Viewbank (as well as a water access road for Banyule just west of this precinct).⁸ (Maps B & C).
- . Paths were those made by the feet of humans and animals.
- . Fencing: post and rail, possibly post and wire (see Precinct A7).
- . Hedges: hedges (hawthorn, mixed with briar and furze) had been planted around Banyule and Viewbank, according to T.A. Rank.⁹ If there were hedges - as seems likely - these were perhaps planted in the late 1850's early 1860's, before Heidelberg's decline. There was possibly a hedge between Banyule and Viewbank, extending to the billabong, and there are hawthorns along fence lines on the Banyule flats.
- . Drains: early drains were bush drains, lined with ti tree and with red gum or brick culverts and shutes.¹⁰
- . Like the uplands, the flats would have become

- exotics, planted for ornament. Oaks and elms were planted at Banyule, in the 1840's or 1850's,⁵ and a few specimens of these species are still to be found on the flats. A regiment of sturdy oak trees existed near the river in 1934. This suggests a substantial number and perhaps an ordered rather than a naturalistic planting. Willows had also been planted at Banyule in the 1840's or 1850's,⁶ although just when is not known, but it is quite probable that they were found along the Yarra here, planted both for decoration and against erosion. All this suggests that there were probably more exotic trees in this precinct at the time of the Heidelberg School than now but probably more indigenous plants now than then, (certainly of course, along the river.)
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 - . Drains: early drains were bush drains, lined with ti tree and with red gum or brick culverts and shutes.¹⁰
 - . Like the uplands, the flats would have become

rather derelict with decaying orchards, overgrown hedges (if they existed) and scattered briars, hawthorns, gorse and other self sown exotic plants.

The ESSENCE of the late nineteenth century landscape

See the points made under Precinct A7 & A9: most apply.

The landscape was pastoral, quiet and in a state of decline. It was in many ways what we have come to regard as typically Australian but it was patterned with imported plants, orchard, ornamental and weed, which gave an English character as well, more marked than today's.

It differed from the uplands in the spatial experience it offered since it was partially contained by the escarpments of Banyule and Viewbank and the river bordered it on the south. It would, however, almost certainly have been easier to look across the river than today to the landscape to the south. To the north the swell of Viewbank was unspoilt by the present tongue of suburbia and from Banyule the flats sloped up into the sparsely treed uplands. Thus the flats did not have the sharp sense of demarcation from the surrounding landscape that they now do.

While the river has almost certainly acquired much more indigenous vegetation it is uncertain whether the billabong has or not. Its edges may have been even barer during the Heidelberg School's period than they are at present. At any rate, the landscape of the river flats would have been comparatively treeless.

Twentieth Century Developments (Ref. Maps E & F and related chapters of the history.)¹¹

The renewal of Banyule and Viewbank does not appear to have changed the character of the flats in any obviously dramatic overall sense although there were changes in detail e.g. new fencing was post and wire rather than post and rail. The loss of some exotic trees (several oaks, at least, must have gone) was perhaps the most important visual change and was presumably related to the change in land management.

The spread of suburban housing, the establishment of sports fields and, to a lesser extent, the establishment of the garden of native plants had far greater visual impact. The flats that were preserved as parkland have been greatly affected visually by these but also by the beginnings of use as parkland, however enlightened, for we now have the introduction of unsuitable materials in fencing and style: unsuitable, that is, in terms of the conservation of the historical qualities of this landscape.

PRECINCT B5 HEIDELBERG PARK/ST. JOHN'S

The Plan of the Village of Warringal of 1839¹ reserved a substantial amount of land from sale at the eastern or river end. The plan has been modified since in a piecemeal way but it is still recognisable today, being responsible for the distinctiveness of the Heidelberg Park-St. John's area's overall layout. A major change has been in the two-pronged Heidelberg Crescent, shown in the 1839 Plan. The western half was closed in 1910² but the eastern appears never to have existed.

What are now known as the Warringal Parklands were however no part of the Village, nor were they ever intended to be public lands for any purpose.

(i) HEIDELBERG PARK

This Park was not gazetted until 1872³ but the cricket ground was renowned in the colony during the 1850's.⁴ It was also used for sports other than cricket including horse racing,⁵ but this use declined because the small size of the course led to accidents.⁶ Part of the land was quarried ("Racecourse Quarry")⁷

- . the parklands in the early period - 1840's to 1880's - consisted of probably increasingly cleared pasture. Eucalypts and wattles remained along the creek and on part or parts of the slope of the "amphitheatre";⁸
- . the cricket ground was pleasingly contained (as it still is) on the west; on the east it opened onto farming land, with orchards and vineyards developing during the 1850's and bushland with increasingly cleared pastoral and cultivated areas towards the hills;⁹
- . the splendid panoramic view from the ridge must have had much to do with the popularity of the cricket ground.¹⁰

Peter Fanning and the Park

The Public Gardens on the western side of th Park largely owe their origin and essential character to Peter Fanning, long a tenant at Banyule, horticultural enthusiast and devoted citizen of Heidelberg.¹¹ His suggestion to Council in 1882 that the Heidelberg Park Reserve should be weeded and improved¹² appears to have led on to the development, by him, of the Park.¹³

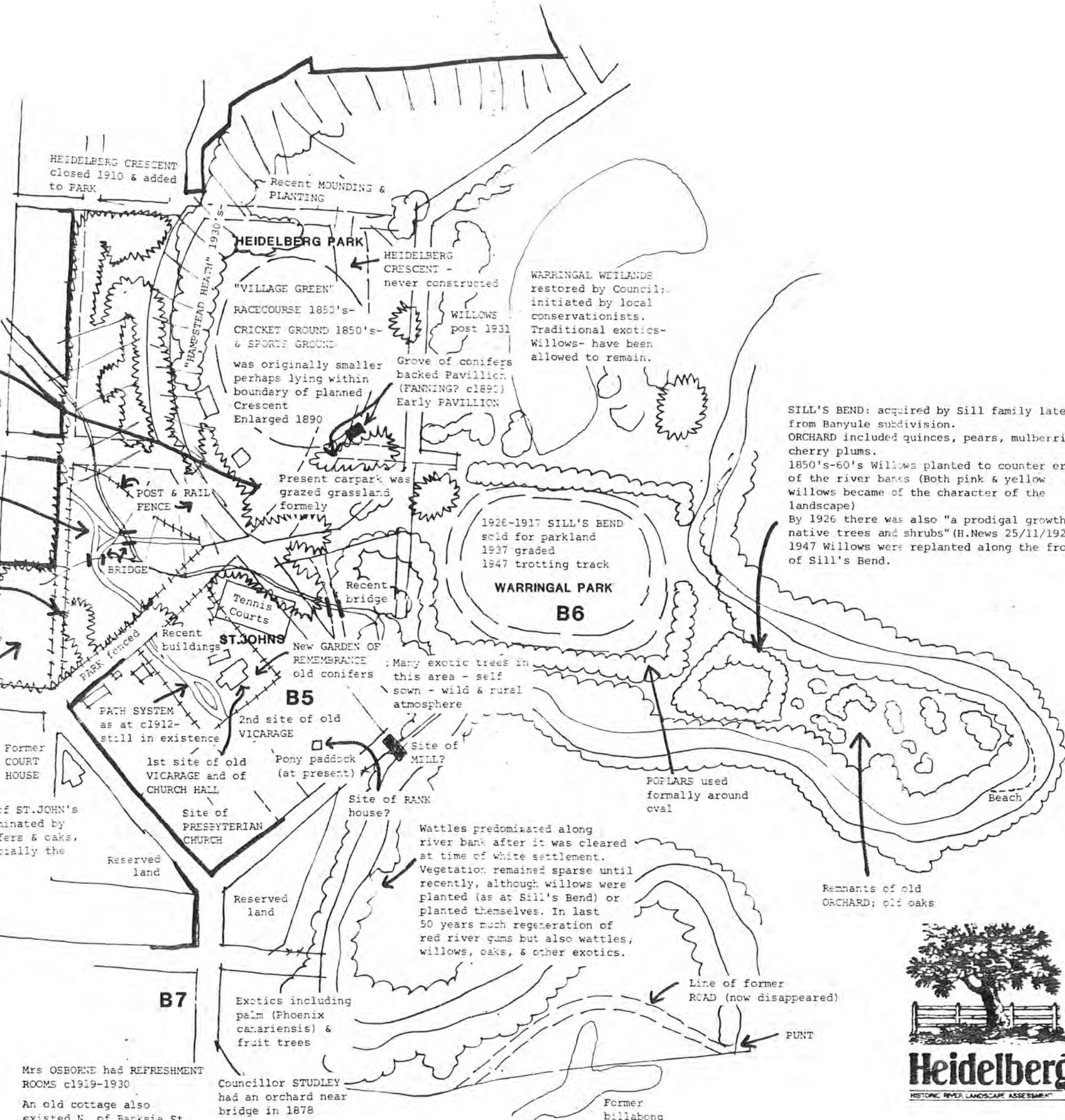
HEIDELBERG PUBLIC GARDENS before enlargement. Probable original boundary & probable original path system of 1880's (see illustration of early development. Older plantings. FANNING?)
1899 CREEK lined with bluestone.

The RIDGE largely coniferous planting (1890's) (FANNING)

Picket fence C19th-C20th then wooden posts and top rail (triangular section)

Former ROAD & ROAD RESERVATION (to 1915?)

Site of old SHIRE OFFICES (to 1909)
Area incorporated into GARDENS c1915?



WARRINGAL WETLANDS restored by Council; initiated by local conservationists. Traditional exotics- Willows- have been allowed to remain.

SILL'S BEND: acquired by Sill family late 1850's from Banyule subdivision. ORCHARD included quinces, pears, mulberries, cherry plums. 1850's-60's Willows planted to counter erosion of the river banks (Both pink & yellow willows became of the character of the landscape) By 1926 there was also "a prodigal growth of native trees and shrubs" (H.News 25/11/1927) 1947 Willows were replanted along the frontage of Sill's Bend.

Many exotic trees in this area - self sown - wild & rural atmosphere

Wattles predominated along river bank after it was cleared at time of white settlement. Vegetation remained sparse until recently, although willows were planted (as at Sill's Bend) or planted themselves. In last 50 years much regeneration of red river gums but also wattles, willows, oaks, & other exotics.

SWIMMING HOLE 1913 Club House & shed built Picket fence after 1927

0 100 200m

Remnants of old ORCHARD; old oaks



PRECINCT DETAILS

PRECINCTS B5, B6, B7

Mrs OSBORNE had REFRESHMENT ROOMS c1919-1930
An old cottage also existed N. of Banksia St.

Councillor STUDLEY had an orchard near bridge in 1878

Line of former ROAD (now disappeared)

PUNT

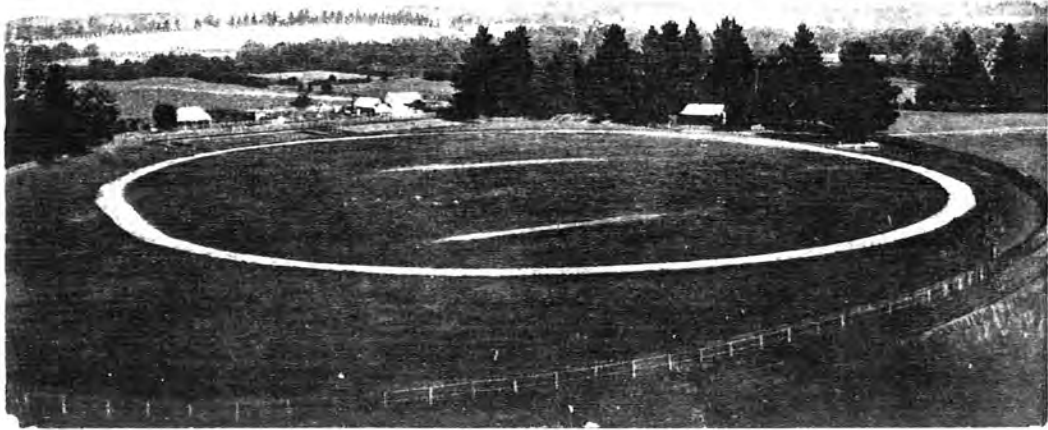
Former billabong

The Gardens were separated from the rest of the Park by a post and three rail fence running along below the ridge on the west.¹⁴ They were very Victorian in concept.

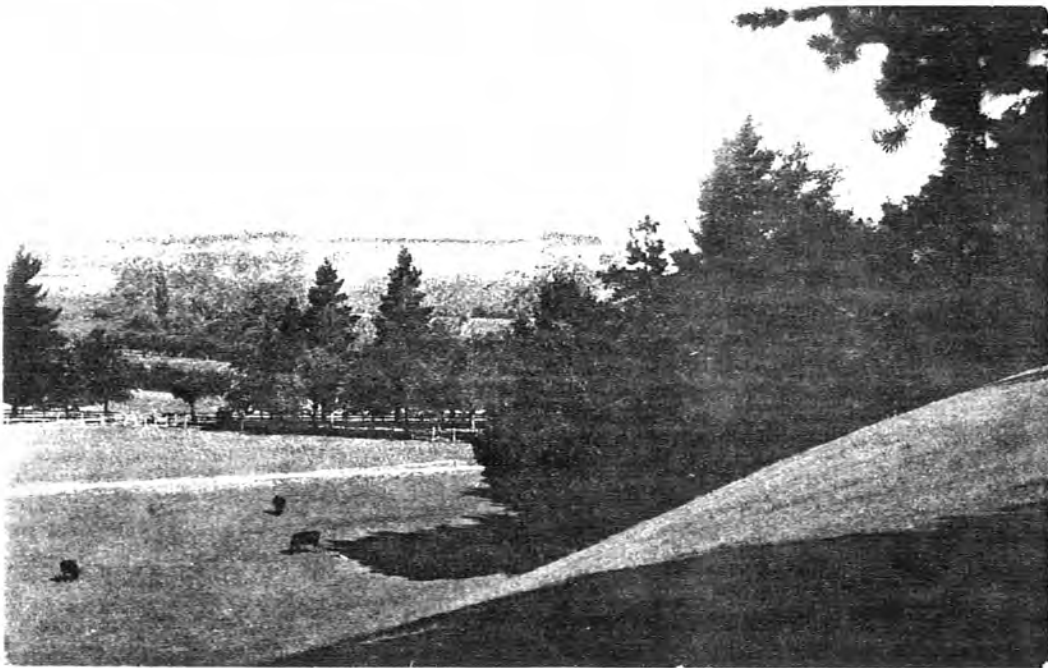
- . the layout of curving paths shown on the map is almost certainly the original one.¹⁵ The paths were edged with box;¹⁶
- . there was a heavy planting of trees and shrubs. The planting was dominantly coniferous with a sub theme of deciduous trees. Fanning chose some uncommon plants as well as popular species, including the pampas grass and dracaenas beloved of the Victorians;¹⁷
- . ornamental bridges crossed the Saltwater Creek;¹⁸
- . there were flower beds, possibly in an enclosure of their own;¹⁹
- . the Gardens were sown down with grass, which had to be cut,²⁰ while the rest of the Park was still grazed;²¹
- . the Gardens were fenced.²² One would expect the fence to have been pickets (the usual thing for civic places) but a post and four rail fence was used around the shire offices while they were in what was later to become the most westerly part of the Gardens;²³
- . in 1899 the creek was converted into the bluestone lined drain we see today.²⁴

Fanning also appears to have had much to do with improving the rest of the Park.

- . conifers and exotics (again as a sub theme) were planted along the ridge and on parts of the flat below. (They carry Fanning's style out of the Gardens area.);
- . a simple pavilion, was at the southern end of the cricket ground perhaps around 1890, when the ground was enlarged. The pavilion stood out well against a mass of conifers;
- . the slopes of the amphitheatre were kept clear;
- . at some stage the cricket ground was enclosed in a picket fence, again perhaps in 1890.²⁵



HEIDELBERG PARK LOOKING SOUTH EAST



HEIDELBERG PARK LOOKING SOUTH

Margaret Willison post card collection.

THE ESSENCE OF FANNING'S HEIDELBERG PARK

1. In his strong, dark hued planting of exotics Fanning kept up the tradition of the gardens established earlier around the houses of the prestige estates. The Park, as the planting matured, picked up the same theme of dark masses on the bare hills made by those gardens and linked up also with the planting around St. John's.
2. At the same time a certain rural atmosphere was preserved outside the Gardens area because animals were used to keep the grass short, and because the area beyond the Park was still farmed.

Twentieth century developments.

The Gardens.

- . after a period of comparative neglect the Gardens were refurbished in 1915. New lawns of buffalo grass were made and borders planted with trees, flowers and shrubs; new walks were gravelled.²⁶ The Shire Offices had been removed²⁷ and it seems likely that it was at this time their site was developed, involving new paths and plants. It also seems likely that the fence was removed at this stage and that the large stones edging the paths replaced the box, as this use of stones was very much in fashion at the time.

The Gardens thus became a composite landscape, basically Victorian but with Edwardian additions.

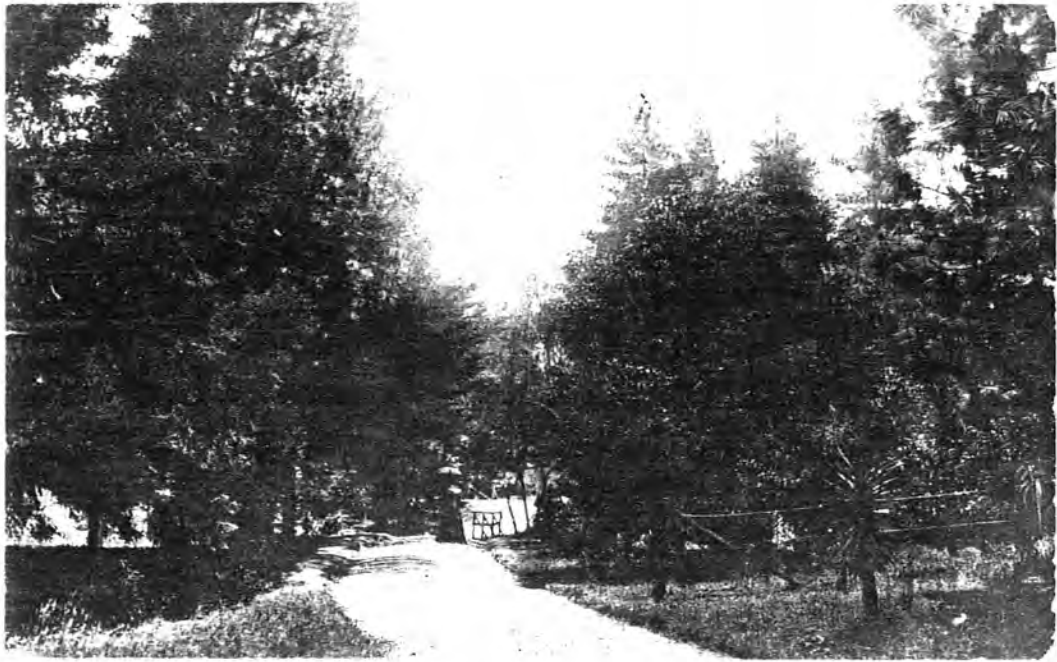
- . most alterations since this period have run counter to the mixed Victorian/Edwardian character.

The Amphitheatre Slope - Hampstead Heath

- . attractive thickets of birches, hawthorns and other plants seem to have been well established on the hillside to the north by 1931²⁸ and it was to spread quite rapidly to the slopes further south, giving a most unusual sense of "wilderness" to the Park;
- . the artificial tongue of mounding which now encloses the cricket ground on the north was suggested by Grahame Shaw in a recent Development Plan.

The Cricket Ground

- . the simple pavilion was replaced by a more elaborate building to the west (before 1931)²⁹ which has since gone. Another pavilion was built (c.1940's or 1950's);



HEIDELBERG GARDENS
Margaret Willison postcard collection.



HEIDELBERG GARDENS
BURGUNDY ST. AND ROSANNA RD. CORNER
(from a "Pictorial history of Heidelberg")

- . an ugly toilet block has been erected and the old grassed area on the south of the oval converted to a gravelled carpark.

The character of the cricket ground and slopes above has been much modified by later alterations, most of them bad, but much of the basic ridge planting and the two great masses of planting on the north east and south east still exist from the nineteenth century.

(ii) ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND SURROUNDS

St. John's (built 1849-51) was sited close to the Yarra but on an eminence, so that it was visible from many points. It stood above and adjoining what was called "the village green", which underlaid its importance as the focus of Heidelberg as English village

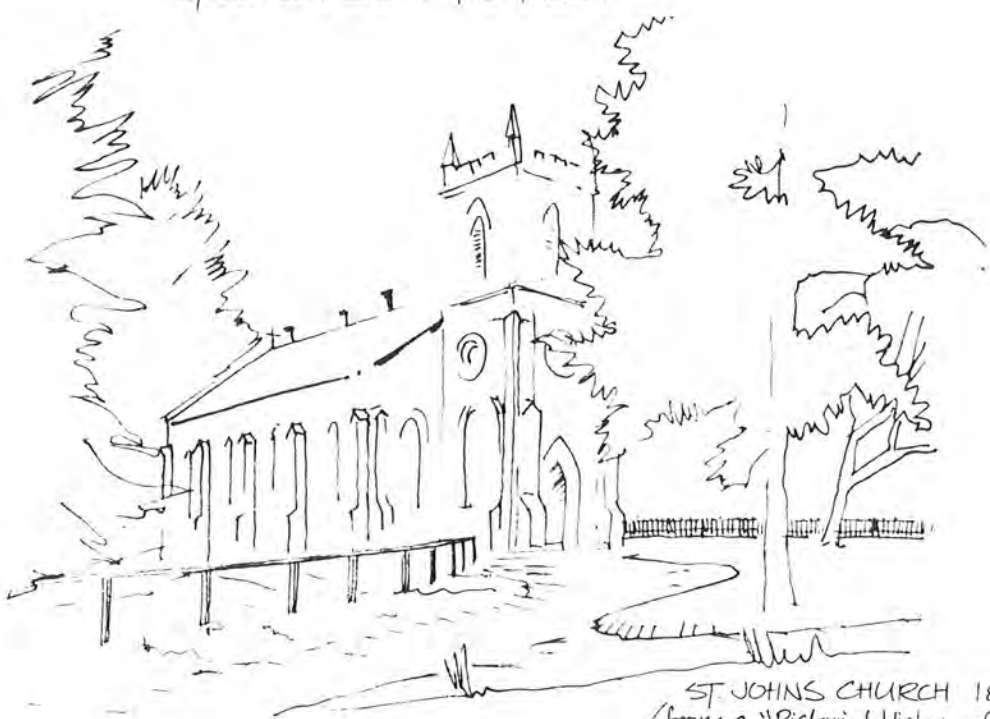
- . a vicarage was built on the south of the Church (it was later moved to a site in Vine Street)³⁰ and from 1886 until after 1905 a Parish Hall stood next to the Church on the east;³¹
- . little was apparently done to landscape the area around the Church in the early days. A picture said to be taken in the 1870's shows the grounds enclosed with a picket fence and a rough driveway probably similar to today's. The same picture shows young trees dotted around and a couple of old eucalypts³² but in 1884 it was proposed to bring in soil for tree planting³³; a sketch of 1890 includes what may be well established young pine trees, (although some others appear to be eucalypts);³⁴
- . for many decades the Church's broader setting was simple, with few trees.³⁵ As elsewhere along Heidelberg's streams most native plants were cleared, although the wattles turned the Yarra into "a golden serpent" every spring.³⁶ Viewed from Heidelberg the view to the east would have been of the "Alps";
- . for a long time there were few buildings. The mill was perhaps the most notable. It may have existed as early as 1851 and was definitely there by 1863.³⁷ A small group of other buildings stood nearby, in a pleasing relationship with the Church, when seen from the other side of the river.³⁸

The ESSENCE of the landscape of the St. John's precinct:

1. The Church's immediate surrounds consisted of a simple rural churchyard, with an unmade drive, rather rough grass and, after some time, a scattering of trees, mainly conifers;



ST. JOHNS ACROSS THE YARRA *



ST. JOHNS CHURCH 1880'S
(from a "Pictorial History of Heidelberg")

Yarra River at Heidelberg



YARRA RIVER, HEIDELBERG *

* Margaret Willison Postcard collection.

2. As the conifers and other trees matured they partially obscured the Church and introduced a strong dark element, contrasting with the grassland around. The planting also made a link with the growing tree masses of Heidelberg Park, to the west.
3. The surroundings helped strengthen the impression of St. John's as a country church well after the period that Heidelberg had been suburbanized, St. John's stood on the EDGE of Warringal village with farming activities close at hand. The landscape was essentially the pastoral landscape of the Heidelberg School.
4. Because of the openness St. John's siting would have been experienced very strongly, i.e. the sense of its being on an eminence, its closeness to river and to cricket ground (village green) as well as its being a focal point in the spaciousness of the Yarra Valley, from many viewpoints.

The "essential" landscape was still in existence in 1931³⁹ and for some time after.

Later developments have blurred but not quite destroyed its atmosphere; some have destroyed past beauty, and substituted nothing worthwhile for it, but in some places a new beauty has been created.

- . In the 1940's "gardens" were made around the Church which probably began the creation of the much more finished and suburban setting we have today. 1959 saw the erection of a new hall and vicarage⁴⁰ of insensitive design (although old trees were preserved). This meant the destruction, on the Burgundy Street side, of the rural atmosphere and sense of quiet uncluttered space;
- . On the Vine Street side the old atmosphere remains quite strongly with the simple grassed shape of the hill and the fine old trees. Unfortunately, the new and ill-designed Garden of Remembrance will soon destroy this unless the Church can be persuaded to develop it elsewhere in the grounds (it is a beautiful idea put into execution in the wrong place). On the other hand, while the tennis courts destroy the beauty of the land form and are, of course, unhistorical, they do not disturb the countryish feeling of the view from Vine Street, in the way that the new church buildings on the west do;
- . There are new houses along Vine Street on the west but the old buildings on the eastern side have

gone. Horses grazing are entirely appropriate. The road has been kept very rough, discouraging traffic and re-inforcing the rural character;

- . There is a new leafiness. The vegetation along the river has become denser and taller with many thickets of exotic plants. Its unplanned, wild nature so pleasingly un-parklike in this context also re-inforces the rural atmosphere: an astonishing atmosphere to find so very close to a major road, bridge and modern suburban shopping street.

A return here to the old sparseness of vegetation would be a mistake since it would only reveal the fact that the countryside has in fact disappeared. The illusion of country could in fact be increased by more planting to obscure unsympathetic buildings and other elements, while preserving as much of the narrow river meadow as possible.

PRECINCT B6 WARRINGAL PARK AND SILL'S BEND

The park had been part of William Verner's estate before it became part of Banyule. In 1853, with the stimulus of the gold rushes, Joseph Hawdon subdivided this area into small blocks (see Map C) at great profit and these were used for orchards, market gardens and possibly vineyards. From the late 1850's the area was bought up by the Sill family and became known as Sill's bend.⁴¹ Around 1927 Sill's bend was sold to the Council for parkland.

THE ESSENCE OF SILL'S BEND 1850's - 1926.

1. the area was used for orchard, with some compartmenting by hedges and fences (see MMBW Plan 146 dated 20.5.36 - Municipality of Heidelberg). Trees included quince, pears, mulberries, cherry plums⁴²
2. the orchard was grassed because of the frequent flooding,⁴³
3. basket willows were planted extensively along the cleared river banks because of erosion⁴⁴ and other exotics, notably oaks, were also planted,
4. the swimming pool at the eastern tip of the bend became very popular.⁴⁵

The development of the Park.

- . The old orchard was almost entirely destroyed except for remnants at the eastern end of the bend. The old hedges and fence disappeared;

- . the swimming pool continued in use for many years and was "improved" with a picket fence (now gone), clubhouse etc.;⁴⁶
- . at the western end the new sports ground and trotting track was decorated with strong planting. This was in a modern formal style and was predominantly deciduous, contrasting on both counts with Fanning's informal clumps and specimens and preponderance of conifers in Heidelberg Park;
- . planting in the bend proper was, on the other hand weak and spotty for the most part.

The Warringal park in the south thus developed a large scale simple scheme of formal planting which may have derived from the tradition established by the English designers Lutyens and Mawson. At the same time something of the old orchard was preserved, which was fortunate, as it is (with Rockbeare) the only substantial remnant of the orchards of Heidelberg, once such an important element in its landscapes.

PRECINCT B7 BANKSIA STREET NORTH

North of Yarra (O'Meara) Street, the land east of Vine Street was apparently originally reserved,⁴⁷ but later fell into private hands. South of Yarra Street the area was subdivided and sold by the 1850's. But on the east the area bore little resemblance in topography to today's. The "lagoon" or billabong, which, until recently, still existed in part south of Banksia Street, formerly lay across the street's planned line in such a way as to make it necessary to have a diversion in the road in order to reach the river and punt (see detailed map). Thus the making of the road in its position meant quite major earthworks and the building of a substantial embankment. In 1862 this embankment was fenced with "sawn stuff" and painted.⁴⁸

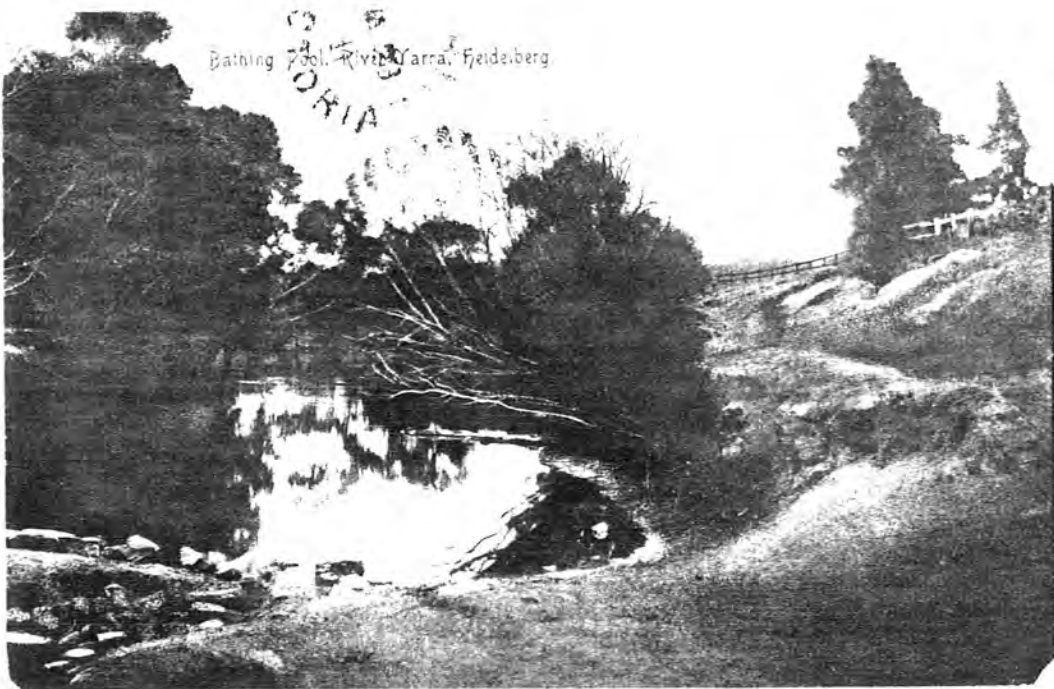
The land north of the road was probably always well used, since, despite floods, the land's richness made it attractive. Councillor Studley had an orchard there (and there are fruit trees still). Heidelberg's attraction for tourists and holiday makers was represented by the establishment of Mrs. Osborne's two storeyed refreshment rooms (from 1919 to 1930 approximately).⁴⁹ There was also an old cottage, only demolished in recent years.⁵⁰

Although close to the township, then, the character of the entrance to Heidelberg on the east was rural for a very long period (on the south of Banksia Street lay Leighton, one of the prestige estates). It provided a transition from the village of Heidelberg to the dairies and market gardens of Templestowe.

Scene at Heidelberg.



YARRA FLATS, HEIDELBERG



YARRA FLATS, HEIDELBERG

Margaret Willison Postcard collection

PRECINCTS B8, B9, B10
**YARRA FLATS. BANKSIA STREET BRIDGE TO BURKE ROAD
 BRIDGE**

These precincts (together with the hillsides behind them) have had an exceptionally rich and significant history. They have important associations with the aborigines (see Part I of the history). With white settlement the flats and their hinterland were divided up to form four (later three) prestigious estates - Leighton, Hartlands, Charterisville (with which Waverley, the fourth was merged). None of these boasted a house of anything approaching the magnificent of Banyule. Of them Charterisville alone exists now and it is completely cut off from its flats and river frontage, while Banyule preserves in old relationship to them. But the owners of these estates in the 1840's and 1850's, together with those of Banyule, Viewbank, Cleveland, Chelsworth, Lucerne, and others created a new landscape for the riverlands, a landscape representing a stage in Australia's social development which was to be swamped by the effects of the gold rushes. This was a landscape which combined beauty and utility, so that the production of grains, fodder, vegetables and fruits on the flats was accompanied by careful design and embellishment with ornamental plants. At the same period these particular estates were associated with notable figures in our history, the Boldens, Sylvester Brown, D.C. McArthur and above all, Brown's son, who was to write under the nom-de-plume of Rolf Boldrewood. (See Parts II and III of the history).

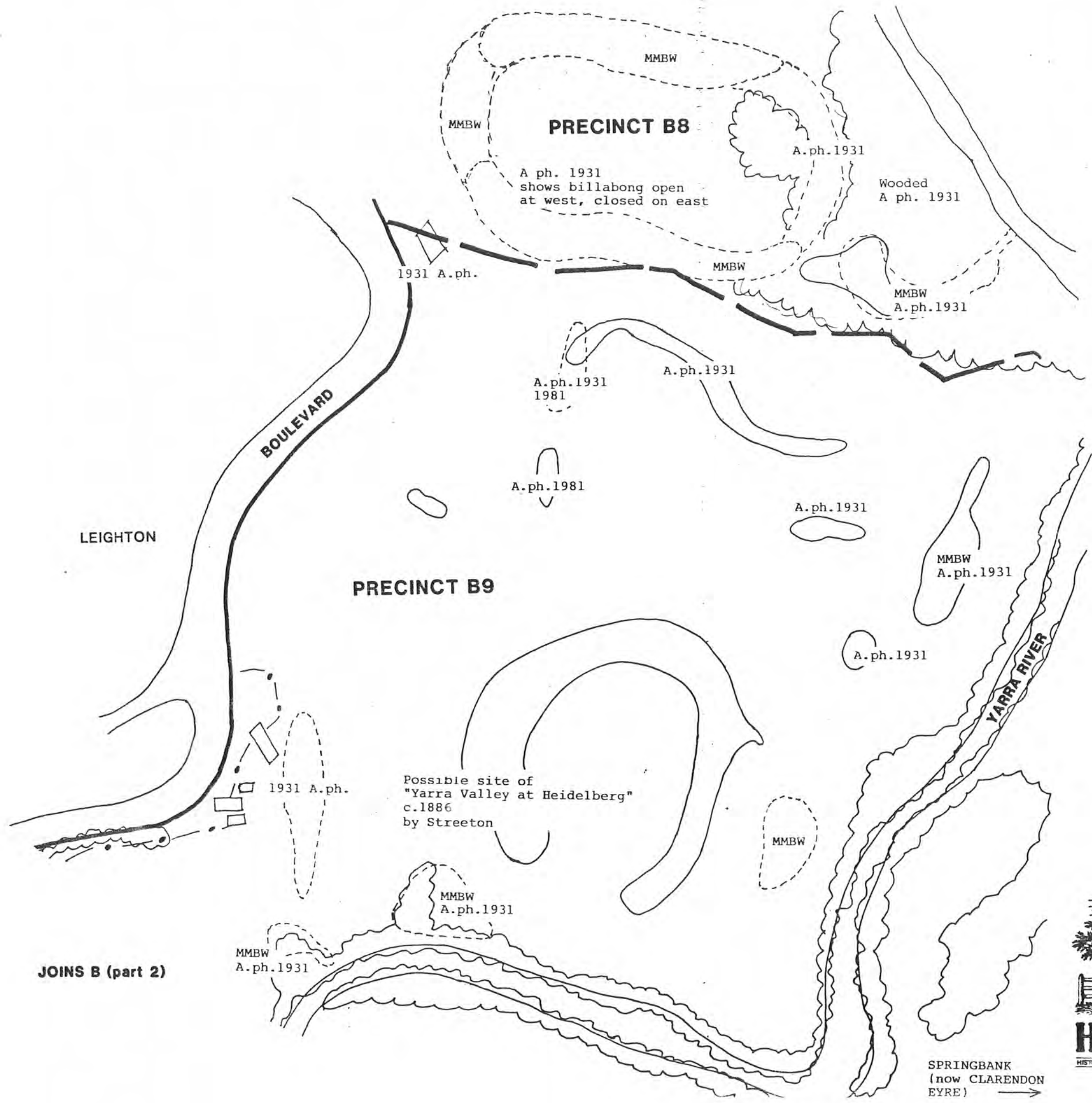
Like the Banyule, Viewbank and Cleveland flats these riverlands were converted largely to dairying in the 1860's and these estates too were all in decline towards the end of the nineteenth century. Much of the area had been worked by tenants from an earlier time and fragmentation continued. Chinese market gardeners, in this century, leased certain sections, including the old Charterisville orchard, until the 1934 flood. Dairy cattle, stud cattle and horses occupied holdings, - sometimes very small ones - until very recently. This later history, not yet fully researched, is of significance for the history of farming on the urban fringe, and later, within suburbia.

The greatest fame of the area lies, however, in the fact that it was on Mt. Eagle that the Impressionists' Heidelberg Camp was created and, to a lesser extent, in the fact that, after the Mt. Eagle camp ended, Charterisville became a gathering place for artists for more than a decade. From these two small hills the artists looked out into the distances of the Yarra Valley, their vision stopped only by the Dandenongs and the Alps. The flats, the bare slopes and hills that

edged them, the more distant foothills with their forests, and the mountains, together form a landscape of the greatest historical and cultural importance for Australians. Now this landscape is greatly changed with the spread of suburbia and the alteration of the very landforms. What remains is very precious, for while it is no longer possible to enjoy the vision of a great pastoral landscape that the artists saw, it is still possible to reconstruct it in the mind's eye from what is left as well as to experience some parts of the landscape which have not been too greatly changed. As already suggested (Precincts A7) Viewbank Hill may now "stand in" to some extent for Mt. Eagle, and from Viewbank and Banyule House it is still possible to experience the old relationship of uplands to river and river flats. The flats in precincts B8, B9 and 10 are hedged in by suburbia, Mt. Eagle and Charterisville hill completely transformed by it, but the flats themselves and the river still offer much that the artists saw (and often painted). What is more, the flats opposite, although marred by recent intrusions, in parts, especially at Springbank (Clarendon Eyre) allow a sense of real distance and of a rural countryside magically cut off from the suburbs close by. The wide spaces of the Yarra Valley would have given a not altogether different experience to the artists for Heidelberg was not real countryside in the 1880's: it lay on the fringe of the city. Now the city has leapt the bed of the valley but the valley itself remains rus in urbe, if only just. This rare survival of the rural in the city gives the landscape a very high value which is quite independent of its associations with Australian art and culture. Many who value it for its unpretentious countryish flavour (as many do, as was shown by an investigation made by Scott and Furphy) are indeed, probably not aware of those associations.

Characteristics of the landscape towards the end of the nineteenth century. (See part IV of history and maps).
(See Part IV of History and Map D)

- . There is no detailed early record of the topography of the flats here, although there is some tantalizingly varied information about the billabongs and swamps of the Bulleen flats. We know there have been considerable changes in recent decades: a good comparison with the present topography can be got from a study of early MMBW maps, with contours and other invaluable details, made before these changes. These maps probably indicate what the topography was like at the time of the Heidelberg School. (See Detail Map). The topography was rather less smoothed out than today and with more water bodies and swamps or swampy depressions.



LEIGHTON

BOULEVARD

PRECINCT B8

A ph. 1931 shows billabong open at west, closed on east

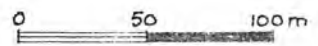
Wooded A ph. 1931

PRECINCT B9

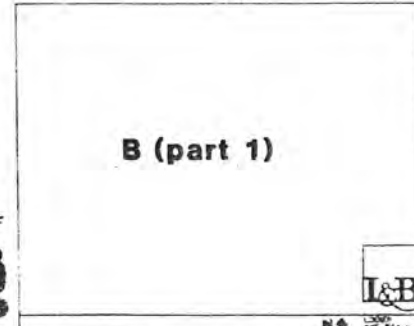
Possible site of "Yarra Valley at Heidelberg" c.1886 by Streeton

YARRA RIVER

JOINS B (part 2)

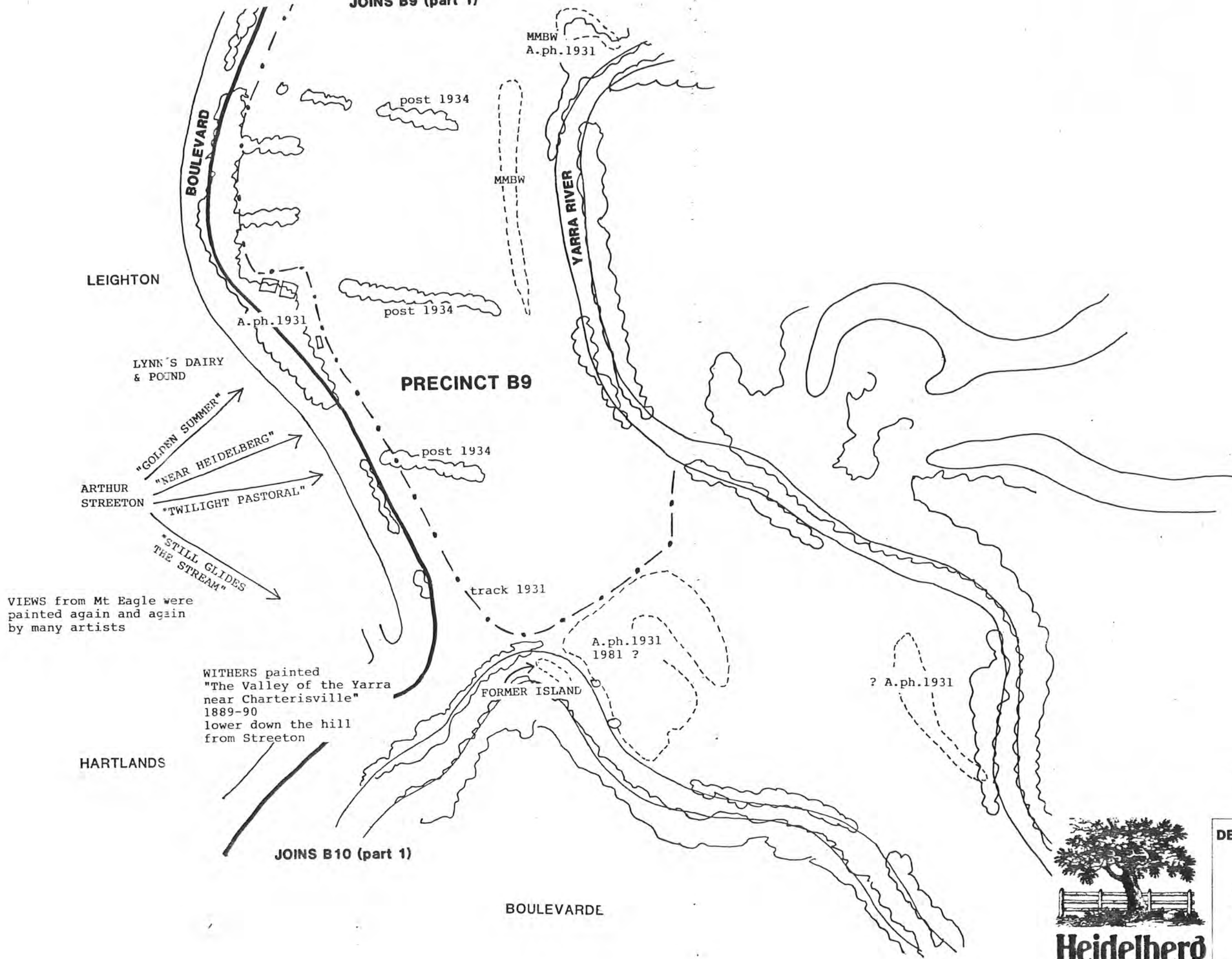


Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



SPRINGBANK (now CLARENDON EYRE) →

JOINS B9 (part 1)



VIEWS from Mt Eagle were painted again and again by many artists

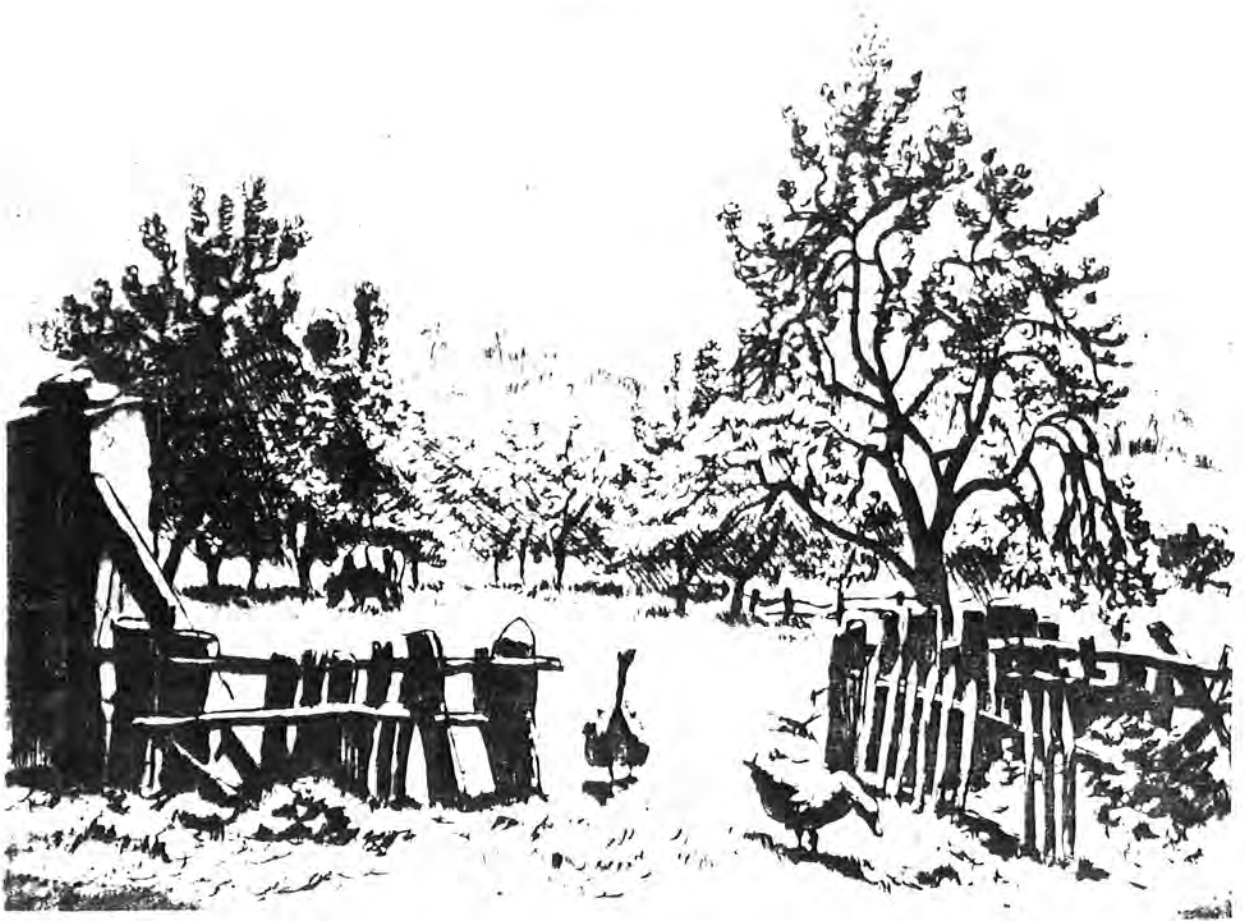
WITHERS painted "The Valley of the Yarra near Charterisville" 1889-90 lower down the hill from Streeton

DETAIL PRECINCT NOTES

PART PRECINCT B (part 2)



- . The flats, long cleared of most native vegetation, were pasture, with occasional patches of cultivation for fodder crops. The pasture, if it had even been improved by the use of artificial grasses, was at this time wholly, or largely, weedy. Native flowers and ferns (maidenhair), swamp loving reeds and rushes mingled with exotic weeds.¹
- . The river bank appears to have had some patches of quite dense vegetation, with some large red gums, but other patches were bare, or only thinly clothed, so that the open land beyond could be seen as through a screen.²
- . There were willows on the Yarra bank in places, and where billabongs had trees they were probably weeping willows for the most part. There were poplars on the flats at Charterisville, (see Roads).
- . Orchards. There may have been an orchard on Leighton (there had been one earlier) and at Hartlands. The one at Charterisville, said to be of eleven acres, was famous. Pictures and description give us a strong impression of it. The ground had not been smoothed out but was, at least in part, undulating (the contours have probably been changed by Chinese market gardeners and flooding). Rough grass grew beneath the trees, so that it was a delightful place to sit or lie in warm weather. The trees had been neglected for some years by the time Lionel Lindsay sketched them, in some places forming thickets. We know that there were oranges, lemons, loquats, cherries, peaches, plums, pears and pomegranates and no doubt other fruits were grown. There were nut trees of various kinds and there was apparently a nut hedge at Charterisville (hazels?) which was likely associated with the orchard. Oaks, what appear to be *Cupressus sempervirens*, willows and river gums appear to have bordered the foot of the orchard at the Yarra's edge. Orchards were a favourite subject of both Streeton and Conder and it is a little surprising that they do not seem to have painted Charterisville's: Streeton did, of course, paint Mt. Eagle's and both painted other orchards, or fruit trees, often in bloom and usually when trees or orchard were neglected, going back to the wild.³
- . Hedges. On the north side of the Charterisville orchard there was a hedge.⁴ Whether this was the nut hedge mentioned above is not known. Charterisville apparently also had hawthorn hedges. The boundary between Charterisville and



Lionel Lindsay 1874-1961 Australian
 In the Orchard, Chartersville, 1896
 Pen and Ink
 21 x 26.7 cm.
 Presented by the artist 1953



E.P. Fox 1865-1915 Australian
 Moonrise, Heidelberg, 1890
 Oil on canvas
 75.8 x 126.5 cm.
 Purchased 1948

HARTLANDS

PRECINCT B10

BOULEVARD

HEDGEROW not present in 1931 (photo) but may have existed earlier and been chopped down, perhaps by the market gardeners. There was a hedge along part of the boundary between Charterisville and Hartlands in the 19thC.

IMPORTANT VESTIGE OF ROLF BOLDREWOOD'S "DENSE THICKETS" & "LAGOON"

ROUGH FORD IN EARLY DAYS LANDING PLACE FOR BOATS including D.C. McArthur's (willows were planted there by him) BATHING PLACE FOR CHARTERISVILLE and possibly EAGLEMONT ARTISTS It continued to be used in this century

DITCH & HEDGEROW

CHARTERISVILLE ORCHARD

Hut 1931 A.ph.

ABORIGINES "STEPPED" TREE

CHINESE MARKET GARDEN replaced orchard AH NUEY 1912 Garden destroyed in 1934 flood

BILLABONG of E.P.FOX'S "The Pool" 1899

Chinese market garden also?

YARRA RIVER

STONEMWORK SAID TO BE REMNANTS OF CHINESE WATER WHEEL ditch may pre-date Chinese

REMAINS OF BRICK DAIRY post 1931

CHARTERISVILLE

HEDGE ALONG BOUNDARY BETWEEN WAVERLEY & CHARTERISVILLE (a hedge was here pre 1931)

LINE OF CEDARS

Outbuildings

House

Garden

pond

House protected by Moreton Bay Figs

0 50 100 m



Heidelberg HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

B10 (part 1)

L.B.

NO 200

CHARTERISVILLE

HEDGE ALONG BOUNDARY
BETWEEN WAVERLEY &
CHARTERISVILLE
(a hedge was here
pre 1931)

STONEWORK SAID TO BE
REMNANTS OF CHINESE
WATER WHEEL
ditch may pre-date
Chinese

REMNANTS OF
BRICK DAIRY
post 1931

WAVERLEY to 1853
then CHARTERISVILLE

BOULEVARD

YARRA RIVER

NATURAL ENTRANCE OF
KOONUNG CREEK TO YARRA

HEDGE
post 1931

PRECINCT B10

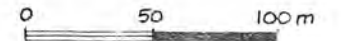
REMNANTS OF
GARDEN
? associated
with former
boathouse c.1919?

BURKE
ROAD

SWIMMING HOLE

OLD PEAR TREES

NEW ENTRANCE OF
KOONUNG CREEK TO YARRA
made for MMBW
A new eroding bank developed
opposite while downstream a
formerly eroding bank became a
depositing bank: a flat of 1 ha
was formed over 10 years ESAV



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

B10 (part 2)



No. 2000

Hartlands now has the remnants of a hawthorn hedge, interspersed with elms, but this did not exist in 1931 when an aerial photograph was taken (see Roads). It is likely that there were other hedges in this area or nearby. (For further information see Part IV of the history).

- . Roads There was a road running down between Charterisville and Hartlands from Lower Heidelberg Road to the river. In 1901 this road was bordered on both sides by Lombardy poplars and on the Charterisville side a hedge separated this avenue from the orchard.⁵ Perhaps both avenue and hedge were removed by the Chinese market gardeners. As far as is known no other road existed on the flats but there may have been rough farm tracks. The Boulevard, of course, did not exist.
- . Paths. Paths would have been made by the feet of people or their animals.
- . Fences. We know there were post and three rail fences on these estates and a post and rail strengthened with wire is also mentioned. (See the History Part IV, Fences and hedges). Fences were not always laid out in straight lines nor did they necessarily confine neat geometrical shapes. They could zig-zag and were often affected by obstructions or made use of them e.g. billabongs to continue the desired barrier. (See MMBW map referred to earlier for fence layout early this century).
- . Drains. There is no information on where drains were on these flats but it seems certain that some, at least, of the billabongs and swamps were drained. (The ditch at Charterisville which contains the foundations of the Chinese water wheel very likely was originally made much earlier and the drain on the Hartlands boundary may also be very old.)
- . It does not seem likely that there were houses or cottages on these flats as there may have been at Banyule during this period. There were the famous gardeners' cottages just up from the flat at Charterisville and there appears to have been at least one dairy on the flat (painted by E.P. Fox).⁶
- . Cattle. In June 1891, Arthur Streeton was delighting in "calves, chestnut and white and black".⁷

The ESSENCE of the Late Nineteenth Century Landscape

What has been written about precincts A7 and E1 should be referred to here. So also should section 4 of Part IV of the history. Above all the pictures made by the artists should be consulted, together with what they wrote about Heidelberg, for these writings point up some of the elements of the landscape with which some of the the artists were concerned but which did not necessarily appear in their paintings. We know (from his writings) that Streeton loved the English plants of the area; we know also from them of his passion for the she-oaks which are represented in the foreground of "Still Glides the Stream..."⁸ (She-oaks grew on the slopes and the tops of the hills rather than on the flats but this would suggest that some should be planted on the knoll at the foot of McCubbin Street, the nearest public land from which we can glimpse a part of the landscape of that famous painting).

Key pictures:

Arthur STREETON:

- "Boys Bathing" c.1889
- "Spring" 1890
- "Still Glides the Stream..." 1890
- "The Yarra at Ivanhoe" 1888
- "The Yarra Valley at Heidelberg" c.1888

E.F. FOX:

- "The Pool" 1899
- "Moonrise Heidelberg"
- "Spring Heidelberg"

Lionel LINDSAY:

- "In the Old Orchard, Charterisville" (2 drawings)
- "The Yarra Valley at Ivanhoe", photograph in Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901.

PRECINCT C4 ROCKBEARE AND DAREBIN PARKLANDS

The early years of this area remain obscure, apart from the names of their owners. We do not know how the land was used.

A BEAR'S ROCKBEARE 1857-1865

In 1857 Thomas Hutchings Bear established the Rockbeare Estate on the East. His background of wealth and pastoral interests gave him excellent credentials for the establishment of a prestige estate and he built a fine house on Darebin Hill and created a fine farm with orchard and vineyard. But it was a small property in comparison with many of the other gentlemen's estates and it was created almost two decades after the rest of them - after their great period.

The great flood of December 1863 greatly damaged Bear's farm but it appears that his farm did not undergo the dramatic change that many others did in the Heidelberg district. Fatebooks of the time continue to state that Bear owned a vineyard or orchard or both. It is possible, of course that his vines and fruit trees now lay above flood level and he ceased to live on the property in 1865. It may well be that, like so much else of Heidelberg, that Rockbeare showed signs of dereliction after its first few outstanding years.

On the western side of the Creek the present Darebin Parklands formed part of the projected Alphington village of 1854 - a village which failed to get off the drawing board. A descendant of J.S. Adams was told that the area, in the 1860's, was parklike, with many eucalypts, suggesting grazing as the likely use but it is possible, even likely, that the rich floodplain was cultivated in the gold rush period, or later, and possibly even by J.S. Adams or T.H. Bear.

B. ADAMS AND ROCKE c.1880 - c.1900

We have more detail for this period but much remains uncertain.

William Henry Focke bought Rockbeare in the late 70's; John Sharp Adams bought the southern area of the Darebin Parklands in 1880 and the northern part within the bend of the creek in 1887. Neither belonged to the social class of Bear - the "gentlemen": Rocke was a very successful furniture importer, Adams had come to Alphington village to run a general store in the 1850's.

Characteristics of the Landscape c.1890 - 1900

- . Adams had built a substantial farmhouse, Rockleigh and its associated buildings, with a colourful garden which sloped down towards the Creek.
- . The farm included a dairy and acquired a piggery in 1900.
- . Steep slopes at Rockleigh were terraced with basalt boulders and planted with olives (1880's or possibly earlier).
- . Vines were also planted now at Rockleigh - or had been planted earlier - on the creek banks and later on the flat.
- . There was an orchard of many varieties, perhaps near the Mulberry spur.

- Adams leased land on Rockbeare and planted orange groves on the slopes of Pine Ridge and possibly elsewhere as well (there are survivors on the north side of Pine Ridge).
- An irrigation system involving as many as 12 weirs (it is said) was built to water the oranges.
- Maize, oats and vegetables were also grown at some time on Rockleigh.
- Olive oil and cider were both made by Adams.
- In 1890, however, quarrying was begun on the southern portion of the Parklands. Stonecrushers and necessary buildings were erected.
- At the same time the area was a popular picnicing and swimming spot.

The ESSENCE of the Adams' Landscape

This must have been the most Mediterranean of Heidelberg's landscapes. The landforms are very much more rugged than on the larger and grander estates on the Yarra. The terraced slopes with shimmering olives, the vines, fruit trees and orange groves would have clothed this landscape in quite a Mediterranean style.

Changes were already taking place during the period which were cumulatively to transform the landscape. Quarrying was to alter the southern part of the Parklands dramatically with an ever enlarging hole and stone dumped to make steep slopes where there had been a gentle incline. Phylloxera devastated the grape vines (1890), while vandals who arrived with the railway (1880) mutilated the fruit trees. In 1888 Mrs. Roche had subdivided part of Rockbeare to the north of the present park. This was not followed by further subdivision on the east until this century but it indicated what was to come.

Nevertheless, despite the growth of the suburbs on both sides of the Creek the area still managed to retain a strong rural atmosphere. Dairying largely took over, but there are said to have been market gardens and also cultivation for wheat and oats, and there were many reminders of the past in surviving olives, fruit trees, hawthorns and the weeds of farming country. At the same time the popularity of the area for swimming and picnicking was to remain high for many years.

C. PARKLAND AND THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

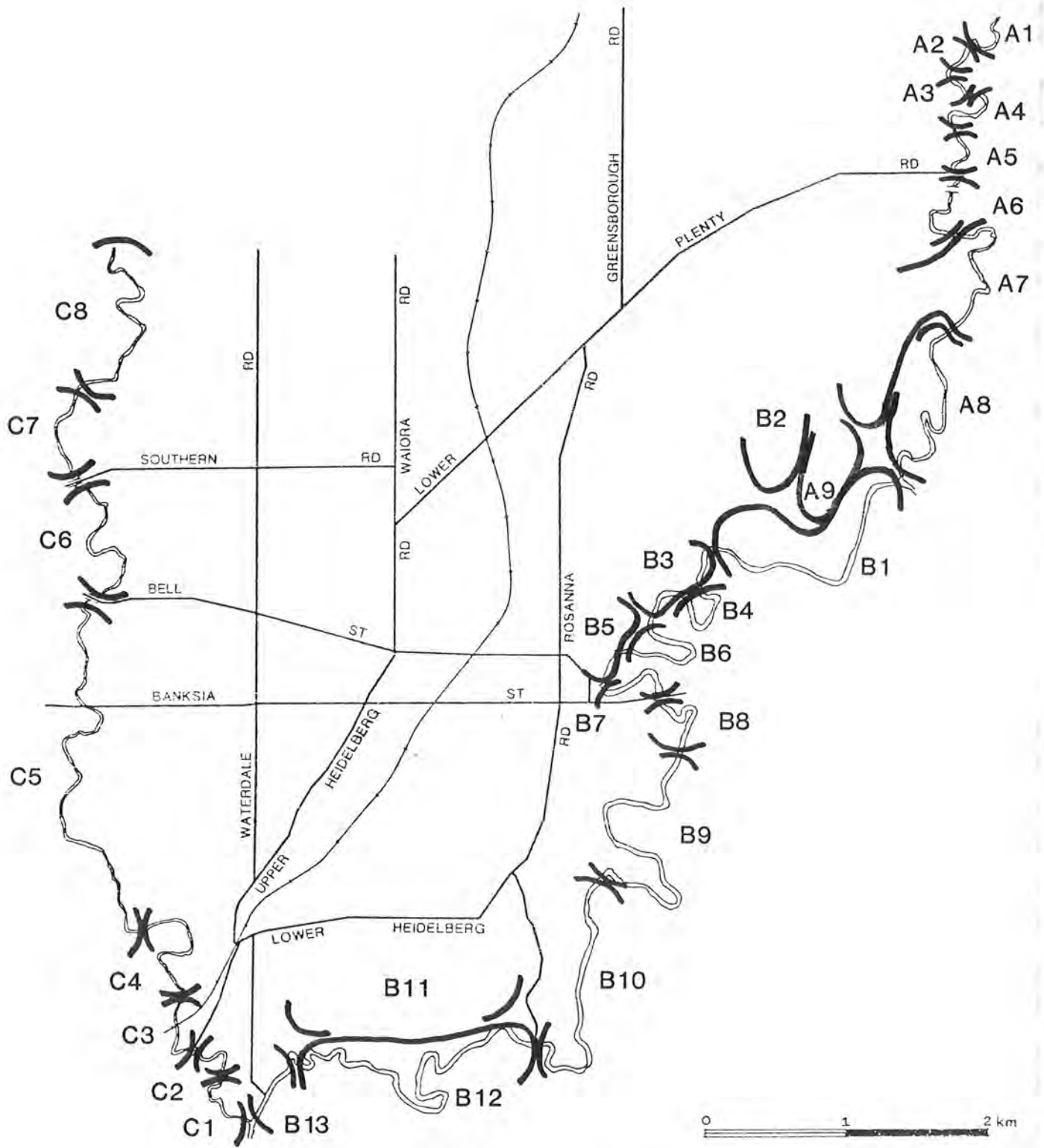
Very early in this century Heidelberg residents saw Rockbeare's potential as parkland but it was not until 1929 that it was purchased. This still left the western lands in private hands. It was not until 1965 that quarrying ceased, only for the quarry to become a municipal tip. In 1973 a small group of dedicated people had had the vision of a park to be created on both sides of the Creek and this has been done through acquisition of land by Northcote council.

The aim of the Rockbeare Park Conservation Group, as stated by Sue Course, was to retain landmarks, the Mulberries and olives, for example, and historical features, (a bluestone weir is mentioned) "while rehabilitating and replanting will return the wild areas as near as possible to their native state". A great number of plants, not all of them indigenous to the area, have been set out by volunteers. Relocation of the F6 Freeway Reservation up the Darebin Creek (1976) and the Premier's visit to the Park (1977) are indicative of the social support now given to what had grown so quickly from small beginnings. The Park's importance can only be accurately judged in terms of the history of the conservation movement in Victoria and even further afield.



1900-1910

THE GROVE, HEIDELBERG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA



PLENTY RIVER PRECINCTS: A1-A8

YARRA RIVER PRECINCTS: B1-B13

DAREBIN CREEK PRECINCTS: C1-C8



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

**LANDSCAPE
PRECINCTS**



N 1:50,000

4.03

PRECINCT RECOMMENDATIONS

We described in "study Process" our concern that landscapes are complex composites reflecting many past and current influences. It is we believe totally inappropriate to attempt, in broadscale landscapes, to freeze them in time, or to attempt meaningful whole scale reconstruction. It is more important to respect the influences and ethos of past times.

Where we believe events have taken place of considerable significance, or the landscape still holds sufficient images from times past of interest, we have recommended action to recognise those events or times. In general this means undertaking works to reconstruct the landscape to the point where a character emerges with sufficient quality and strength to excite participants in it and remind them of history and the evolution of landscape.

It is not necessary, and we would believe wrong, to undertake re-creations. It is not necessary that accurate restoration take place for each piece of the fabric. Some elements may not be critical, but the sum of the elements must have integrity and strength of character.

Because we are generally not dealing with individual properties, it is not possible to announce that all fences for example in 1895 were split post and rail.

Fencing of each property related not just to style but to the activities on the property, the state of repair of older fences, the prosperity of the property or owners or even a willingness or reluctance to change. Often fences themselves were a composite with wire being strung to extend the life of post and rail for example.

This study does not include the preparation of landscape plans, park plans or master plans. It provides a basis for the preparation of these. We have in places prepared some example sketches, but they are to be treated as descriptive only as they are prepared without study into other relevant influences.

Master plans, park plans and landscape plans are needed for the whole study area to ensure that piecemeal works are not undertaken and that a context is provided. The Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park Master Plan is now out of date, as is the Darebin Parklands report. Considerable information is now known for each area and park planning studies need not be monumental.

Following each precinct is addressed in terms of our recommendations.

While there continues to be a debate about the relevance of ICOMOS guidelines to landscape and garden conservation. We intend, at this stage, to use the following notes as a basis to describe our work, but in most cases using the broader interpretations.

Place means site, area, group of buildings or other works of cultural significance together with pertinent contents and surroundings.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Conservation is the general term for the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its culturally significant qualities. It will, according to circumstances, include preservation or restoration, as well as maintenance and it may include the minimum practicable reconstruction or adaptation.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit new functions without destroying its cultural significance.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place. We have found it necessary, as a guide to further study, classification and future preparation of statements of significance to rank each of the precincts we have investigated. The ranking used is:

a) High or Major Cultural Significance:

An area of important past events and activities that either retains the ethos of that period or substantial remnants.

N.B. The area could be composite.

b) Cultural Significance:

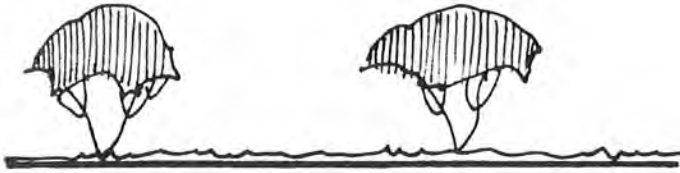
Usually an area of important past events of which some evidence still remains. Can also be an area containing substantial intact material from the past but a past without high note.

c) Historical Interest:

Usually an area with an interesting past but little current material evidence.



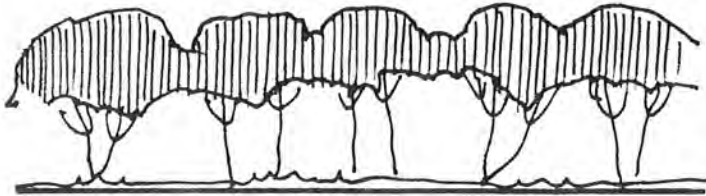
OPEN GRASSLAND
OR PASTURE



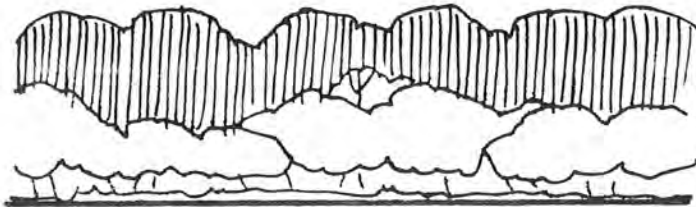
GRASSLAND WITH
SCATTERED TREES



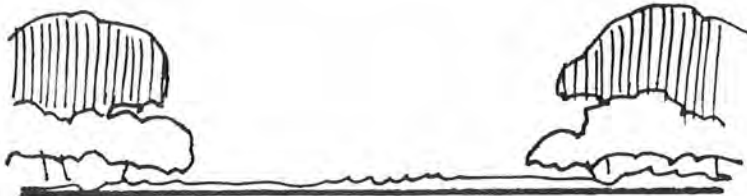
OPEN WOODLAND



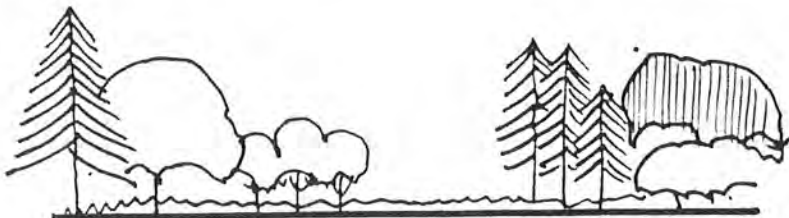
CLOSE WOODLAND



CLOSED WOODLAND



MEADOW OR
EDGE ENCLOSURE



PARKLAND

PRECINCT A1.

LOCATION: ALLIMA AVE NORTH

ANALYSIS: A derelict landscape of historic interest now dominated by residential overlook, weed infestation and regenerating manna gum woodland.

This river flat precinct was part of the early prestige estate Woodside more recently known as Casa Maria. Being a fertile well watered area it was presumably of high value to the Estate.

The prestige estates of Heidelberg, with frontages to its streams are of major historical importance. Not a great deal is known about Woodside, which while not one of the celebrated estates had a long and varied history. Many of the estates were far more than of purely local importance, playing a much wider part in the development of Victorian agriculture in the 1840's and 1850's, and in the culture of the period before the gold rushes.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The precinct is of historic interest but not significance. Landscape development should contain clues to past occupation eg. retention of old pear. Development should be a Reconstruction of the character of the pre-contact landscape with modification to suit public access, fire management, existing boundary conditions and constructed elements relating to the mid 1800's.

Broad Character: Indigenous closed woodland with clearings.

Views into: Generally closed and natural.

Views out of: Generally closed and natural, screening out adjacent residences.

Plantings: Indigenous species e.g.

Eucalyptus	viminalis
"	melliodora
"	polyanthamos
Callistemon	paludosus
Acacia	dealbata
"	mearnsii
"	implexa
"	verticillata
Bursaria	spinosa
Goodenia	ovata
Hymenanthera	dentata

- Management:
- weed eradication
 - low key management and maintenance
 - slashed clearings.

Throughout the following recommendations we refer to "slashed clearings", "bush character" and "rough parkland". We believe in such areas it is essential that a crudeness of maintenance is achieved rather than a tendency towards a universal parkscape of close regularly mown grass.

The maintenance of such an area still requires attention and care, but it also requires thought and adherence to a prescribed maintenance regime.

After weed eradication, grassland should be developed of low growing ryes and bents. In time these areas should only need cutting in the open spaces, allowing the shrubby understory to develop shading out the grass and as appropriate the introduction or emergence of indigenous herbs.

- Fabric:
- Soft low key "bush character"
 e.g. crushed gravel paths without plinths
 simple hardwood furniture, barriers, sign posts, etc.

PRECINCT A2.

LOCATION: ALLIMA AVE AREA

ANALYSIS: Landscape dominated by the landform and regenerated eucalyptus. Remnant row of *Cyprinus sempervirens* stands out. Allima Avenue, the extension of Yallambie Road, forms part of the occupation road between Lots 7 and 8 of Portion 8, later Woodside, and the northern Section of Yallambie. For Woodside see Precinct A1. For Yallambie see Precinct A4. The Cypress pines appear to have been connected with the house of Woodside. Recommendations to acknowledge past events.

RECOMMENDATIONS: A landscape of historic interest but not significance. Conservation of Cypress pines in a landscape developed as a closed woodland of indigenous plant material and constructed elements relating to the mid 1800's.

Broad Character: Indigenous closed woodland with hints of past history in the character of paths and fabric.

Views into: Vistas could be developed.

Views out of: Screen out residential areas.

Plantings: Indigenous (see Precinct A1).

Management: Managed as rough bush parkland. (See Precinct A1).

Fabric: Extend character from Precinct A1.

PRECINCT A3.

- LOCATION:** ALLIMA AVE. SOUTH TO YALLAMBIE FLAT
- ANALYSIS:** A slightly broader landscape with gentler falls to the river. The scene is disturbed with a mixture of regenerating native plants and escaped garden and hedge plants. Of special note are a stand of predominantly Canary Island pines.
- The area was made part of the Plenty Station (Yallambie) by 1850. (see A4). Earlier a part had been farmed briefly by William Grieg, of importance for his journal which is of great value for the agricultural history of his period (early 1840's). (For Yallambie see A4).
- Recommendations to respond to adjacent sites, influences, land uses and remnant historical elements, associated with Yallambie.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:** Conservation of historical and interesting plants (briars, hawthorns and pines) within a landscape modified to its role as a linear park. Its character should be dominated by large scale indigenous vegetation with a mixed understorey and areas of rough grass on the flatter slopes, inter-mixed with remnants of the past.
- Broad Character:** Open woodland with closure on steep slopes and river edge.
- Views into:** Generally closed.
- Views out of:** Residential areas screened; framed glimpses of historic elements, e.g. Yallambie trees.
- Planting:** Generally indigenous but maintain copses of hawthorns and briars along pathways. Maintain pines leading into historic area, otherwise planting as for Pl. but keep river edge reasonably clear on the Heidelberg side.
- Management:** Manage generally as rough parkland with slashed grass. Ideally suited for the location of park elements e.g. B.B.Q.'s not suitable in Precinct A4.
- Fabric:** Landscape elements should flow on from Precinct A4.
- Paths - a laneway of crushed local rock.
Fences - hardwood split rail or split post and wire.

PRECINCT A4.

LOCATION: YALLAMBIE FLAT

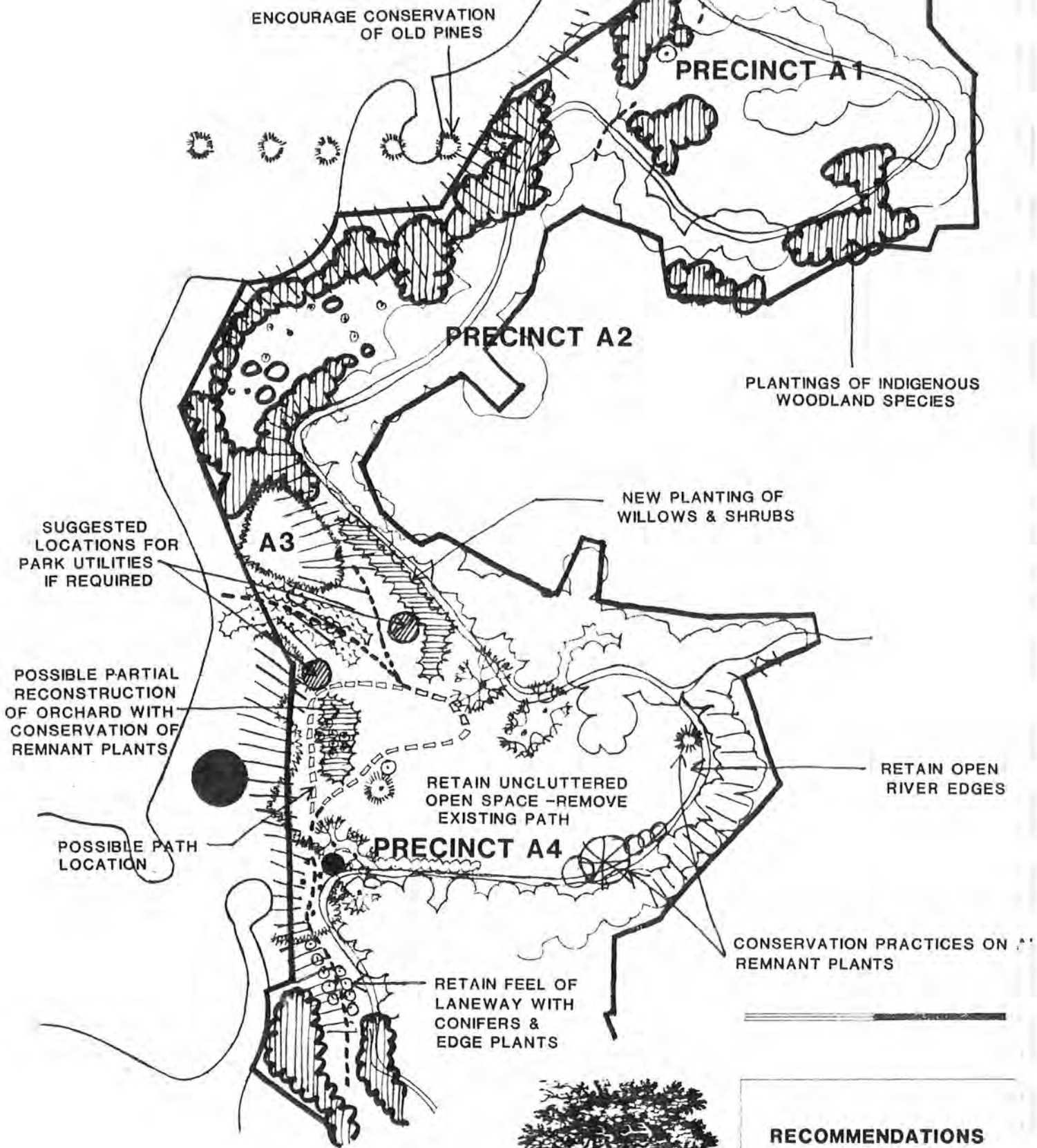
ANALYSIS: A culturally significant place with very close relationships to Yallambie Homestead. The Plenty Station as it was originally called was established by the Bakewell brothers by the purchase of various lots of Portion 8. This section is exceptionally well documented with pictorial material for the 1840's and 1850's. The Wragges transformed the property in many ways from the 1870's, unfortunately less well documented. Remnant elements from a number of historical periods as well as recent additions including regenerating indigenous vegetation set in a generally contained horseshoe bend river flat. Remnant historic vegetation includes, *Auracaria* and *Pinus* sp.; *Prunus* sp; *Cupressus* and *Quercus* sp.

RECOMMENDATIONS: An area of high cultural significance requiring protection and sensitive management. Conservation of important historic plants e.g. conifers and partial reconstruction of farm elements e.g. orchard is required. Development should ensure the retention of the open landscape setting, with views to open water from Yallambie to indigenous woodland on the Eltham side. The Eltham side should be planted out with indigenous woodland species as a "dusky woods" setting to Yallambie. Preservation of the integrity of the Western escarpment now under private management is critical. The significance of the site should be recognised in its management and planning and the site should be regarded as permanently linked with the Homestead. Western escarpment property owners should be encouraged to participate in sympathetic management of their properties. Any planting on the escarpment should be as an unfussy thickets with the pines protected and dominant.

The landscape should be developed to continue the impression of a mature and derelict farm/garden from a past age.

Broad Character: Open landscape "common" with enclosure all around, dominated by major exotic elements. Laneways to be narrow and enclosed. Historic elements to dominate.

Views into: Not critical and should be sub-servient to views out.



Heidelberg
 HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRECINCTS
 A1, A2, A3, A4**



- Views out: Glimpses only of Yallambie Homestead maintained. Clear edge to river on the Heidelberg side but a bushland screen to Eltham housing. Screen to Yallambie housing estate by encouraging planting on those properties and maintenance of pines.
- Planting & Management Reinforce historic elements by partial reconstruction, e.g. orchard and initiate maintenance program on old trees. Thin out along river bank to establish views to the river, but retain plants of historic interest and those screening residences. Screening and river edge thickets to be mix of indigenous and exotic scrub
 e.g. Callistemon paludosus
 Bursaria spinosa
 Acacia dealbata
 Crataegus sp.
 Rosa rubiginosa
 Ulex europeus
 Robinia pseudo acacia.
 Maintain undulating open grassland.
 Remove existing furniture and modern park elements.
 Remove all existing paths.
- Fabric: As few elements as possible. Paths should be direct and not circuitous and be at the edge of different zones e.g. orchard; the paths should be constructed of local crushed rock without plinths. Fences should be split post and rail or split post and wire - all in hardwood. Other furniture should be of hardwood and simple in character.

PRECINCT A5

LOCATION: YALLAMBIE PARK, LOWER PLENTY ROAD

SUMMARY: Not of special significance, though possibly linked in the past with Yallambie. Now dominated by active sporting uses with pipe and wire fencing. A few historical plants survive.

RECOMMENDATION: Parkland developed with a unifying character to give the area some strength. We would recommend building on an indigenous theme so as not to not conflict with Yallambie.

Broad Character: Sportsfield in unifying close indigenous woodland.

Views into: Not special but could be developed.

Views out of: Reinforce view towards Yallambie and screen power lines, park elements confusing that view and adjacent residents.

Planting: Generally riparian as for A1.

Management: Open green parkland merging with rough edges - to river in particular. Use path to define edge of management zones. Conserve and protect remnant hawthorns.

Fabric: Unifying and generally soft. Care at the Yallambie end to link with that detailing. Use hardwood timber in lieu of metal pipe work wherever possible (if pine must be used then use squared sections).

PRECINCT A6

LOCATION: LOWER PLENTY BRIDGE TO BANNOCKBURN ROAD

ANALYSIS: Not of overall significance but contains a major structure which is of significance. The area above the Old Lower Plenty Road was the southern most portion of Yallambie. The area below the Old Road was part of J.M. Hall's Westbank, another of Heidelberg's prestige estates of the 1840's to 1850's. Regenerated indigenous woodland now dominates the scene.

RECOMMENDATION: Restoration of the character of pre-European landscape with modifications to suit public access, fire management and existing boundary conditions. The now by-passed bridge should be conserved and integrated into the linear parkland.

Broad Character: Closed indigenous woodland.

Views out of: Screen out residential areas, possibly use bridge as a viewing station, down river.

Views into: Generally not possible.

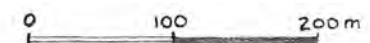
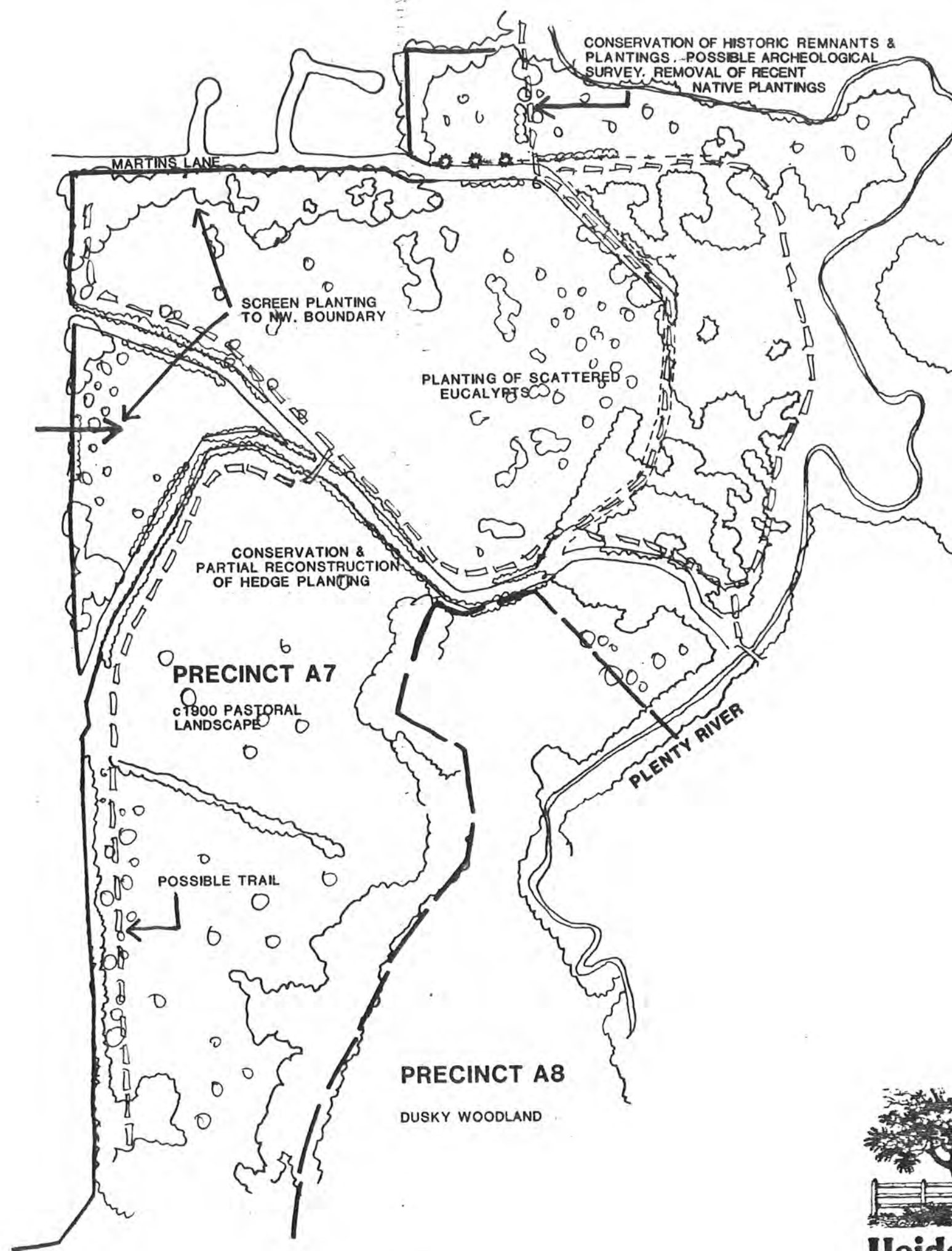
Planting: Riparian as for A1.

Management: As for A1
Undertake conservation analysis study and restoration of bridge.

Elements: As for A1.

PRECINCT A7.

- LOCATION:** BANNOCKBURN ROAD SOUTH TO VIEWBANK HILL.
Excludes Golf Course.
- ANALYSIS:** Of landscape interest and of cultural significance. Comprises parts of Westbank and Cleveland, two of Heidelberg's early prestige estates. The southern area was a portion of Harold Bartram's Viewbank of the 1920's - 1930's onwards. Of even greater importance is the fact that this landscape is still characteristic of the landscape known to the artists of the Heidelberg School. The forms of the hills, the open pasture, scattered gums, gorse, hedges and lanes and the broadness of scale are all reminiscent of Mt. Eagle and its surrounds. The area would have been well known to Walter Withers, who lived close by at one stage.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:** Conservation of the existing landscape character with a slight emphasis towards re-construction of open woodland at the edges to fully integrate the setting and screen out disturbing elements. Features e.g. Martins Lane Cottage or Dairy remnants, Banyule Road hedge, gorse patches and hawthorns should be preserved. An important feature of this landscape should be grazing cattle in an unfussy, uncluttered grassland setting merging into uncleared open woodland. New or repaired elements of the landscape, e.g. fences, should be characteristic of or sympathetic to the 1890's.
- Broad Character:** Rural; generally broad and grazed, grassland to open woodland, with exotic plants as highlights and a slight sense of dereliction. Tracks to be rural and kept to edges of fence lines or through woodland.
- Views into:** Exploit where possible but "hedge" edges screening maintained.
- Views out of:** Screen out suburbia.
- Planting:** Indigenous (*as for A1 plus *Eucalyptus ovata*, *E. Camaldulensis*, *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Cassinia arcuata*) except for special sites e.g. Martin's Lane (possible site of Westbank Cottage complex) where the exotic species (oaks, elms and cypress pines) should be maintained and sensitively reinforced. Hedge plantings of Gorse and Hawthorns.



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

**RECOMMENDATIONS
PRECINCT A7**



H4

Management:

Grazing - large paddocks.

Elements:

Rural 1800's-1900 with gravel paths of local crushed rock; post and rail plus split log and wire fences of hardwood; hardwood timber gates; simple (not crude) small scale structures with gable roofs and single verandah.



SKETCH FROM WALTER WITHER'S "HEIDELBERG FROM ELTHAM ROAD"
1898

Note: Split post and two rail fencing and simple gable structure

PRECINCT A8.

- LOCATION:** Rosanna Golf Course.
- ANALYSIS:** Not of landscape significance. A major recent development in the valley which is unsympathetic in its landscape development with the characteristics of the broader landscape.
- The Golf Course is part of George Porter's Cleveland, one of the most important of Heidelberg's early prestige estates. These rich alluvial flats were much cultivated but, as the result of the December 1863 flood and other disasters, were converted to dairying, which became the major industry of Heidelberg's flood-prone areas, and remained so for a very long period.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Encourage redesign of the landscape character of the Golf Course to integrate it with the open to open woodland character of the land to its east and west. Ideally develop as a links course to remove emphasis on rigid fairway divisions.
- Broad Character:** Open woodland with copses and enclosure along escarpments and creek lines.
- Views into:** Maintain from adjacent areas predominately as "dusky woods" canopy.
- Views out of:** Not critical.
- Planting & Management:** Progressive removal of exotic species where rigid plantings dominate. Replant with indigenous riparian species (see A1) but with dominance of *E. camalduleus* and *E. ovata* with the other *Eucalyptus* species thinning out towards the Yarra. Manage as Golf course but maintain natural creek and river edges.
- Protect isolated historic structures e.g. weir, old fence line and planting near confluence of the Plenty and Yarra rivers.
- Elements:** Ideally compatible with A7 and B8.

PRECINCT A9.

LOCATION: VIEWBANK HILL

SUMMARY; A landscape of cultural significance. This was part of the historic Viewbank estate and contains the area of Dr. Martin's house and garden. The site of Martin's homestead is now represented by stands of exotic trees defining the original garden structure and scattered elements of the house and garden walls. Remnants of the dairy development of the 1920's also remain. The brow and steep parts of the hill, with rough grassland and scattered Gorse and Hawthorn are reminiscent of scenes painted in the Heidelberg/Templestowe area by the artists of the Heidelberg School. It is the last survivor of Streeton's "dear golden hills" and is of great importance in the landscape seen from central Heidelberg.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Conservation of the late 1800's landscape consisting of open grasslands, scattered and clumped trees. Native and exotic scrub species on steep slopes.

Some specific preservation projects will be necessary e.g. Viewbank Homestead environs and plantings. Partial reconstruction in some areas of a component of the landscape fabric may be necessary to aid interpretation and conserve the character of the area.

The outlook from the major view points of Viewbank Hill is critical and adjacent landowners should be encouraged to develop sympathetic landscapes. This is especially critical for views towards Bond's Lane Monastery and over the MMBW parklands in Templestowe. Where unavoidable intrusions occur, screen with a "dusky woods" theme should be used.

Broad Character: Open and rural with a hint of dereliction. Historic plantings left as elements of a past era.

Views into: Should be fully exploited wherever possible.

Views out of: Extensive views out add to the precinct's quality but a number of disturbing elements - housing, sports fields, power lines etc. need to be screened. Long views across the Yarra over "dusky woods" will enhance the character of this precinct. View links to Banyule Gallery/Homestead should be maintained.



David Davies 1864-1939 Australian
Moonrise, 1894
Oil on canvas
118.1 x 148.2 cm.
Purchased 1895

Planting & Management:

Preservation of remnant garden plantings from the Martin era needs to be undertaken.

Archeological explorations to determine extent and form of garden followed by minor works to enable it to be discovered and interpreted.

Removal of rubbish and row of sugar gums.

The bareness of the hills, especially on its southern and western sides must be preserved.

Isolated plantings of *Euc. camaldulensis* and *E. melliodora* to restore the area to sparse open woodland.

Planting out of Somerset Drive houses and disturbing views across Banyule Road with indigenous shrubs while maintaining views to Banyule homestead.

Property developed as rough pasture with grazing.

Parkland development and public facilities kept to Northern slopes and near to Banyule Road.

Steep slopes planted with indigenous and exotic shrubs including gorse, hawthorns and briars.

Fabric:

All elements not compatible or potentially not compatible with character of the area should be screened or located at the edges, e.g. Viewbank Interpretive Centre or Demonstration Dairy.

All components making up this precinct should reflect a rural landscape of 1900 e.g. post and rail or split hardwood post and wire fences; crushed rock paths; timber gates (see B1); simple gable roofed structures in groups.

Tracks and trails should be unintrusive and located to be subservient to the broader landscape. They should be of a farm character and scale and not "developed".



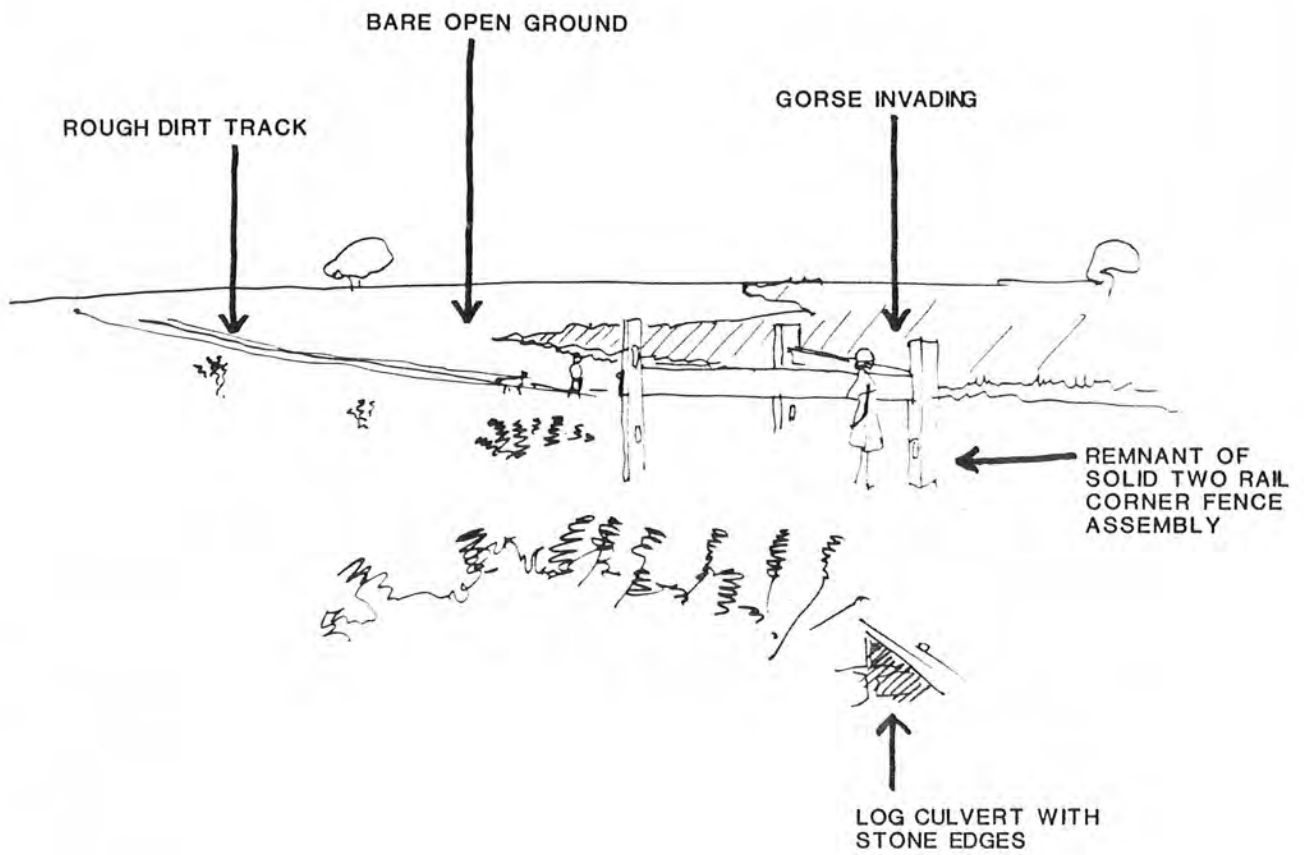
SKETCH FROM WALTER WITHERS "THE COMING STORM" c1898
 Note: Cluster of cottages with both hip and gable roofs.



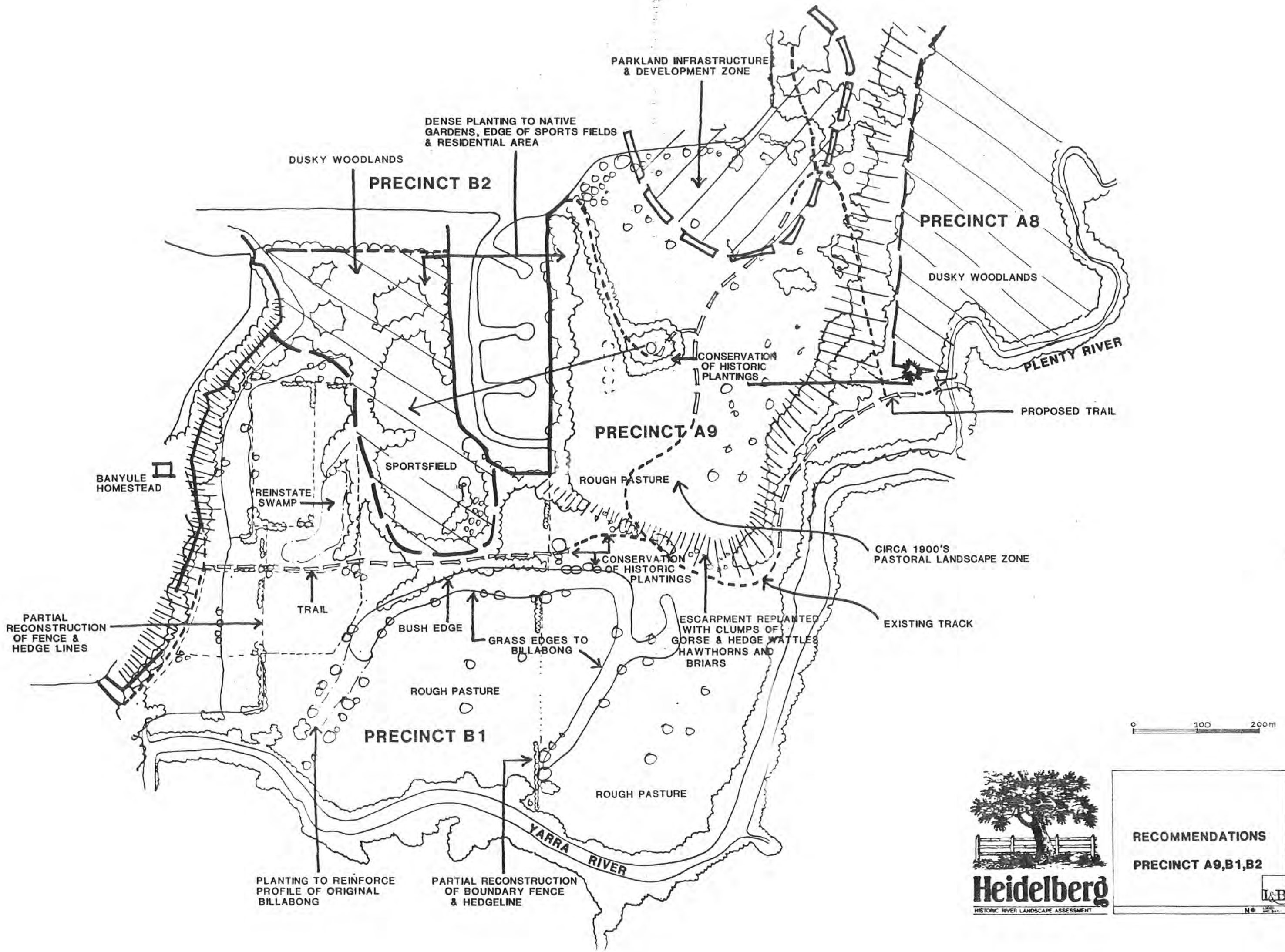
SKETCH FROM WALTER WITHERS "COUNTRY ROAD" c1898
 Note: Old split posts formerly with 3 rails, but now wire.

PRECINCT B1.

- LOCATION:** YARRA RIVER.
Plymouth Street upstream to confluence with the Plenty River and includes the undeveloped areas of Banyule and Viewbank flats.
- ANALYSIS;** A landscape of high cultural significance due to its general intactness, its relatively unaltered state for over the last 100 years, its close association with two major early properties and in particular Banyule homestead and its association with the Heidelberg School period.
- These flats were initially the most valuable parts of the Banyule and Viewbank Estates, two of the most important prestige estates of early Heidelberg. In their pastoral phase they were part of the landscape of the early Heidelberg School and are now the only part of the Yarra flats which still preserve something of the old relationship to the valley slopes above them.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:** Conservation of the late 1800's landscape consisting of open grassland, scattered and clumped trees, introduced and native scrub on steep slopes, undulating flood plain, generally bare edged water holes, wetlands, banks and, isolated deciduous trees associated with fence lines, open river bank with trees including some willows and grazing cattle. Adaption to suit public park functions will be necessary but details, siting and design must ensure the above landscape is dominant.
- Broad Character:** Open and rural circa 1900's with a hint of dereliction.
- Views into:** Much of this precinct is visually exposed and therefore it is essential it be developed with integrity and sensitivity to retain its intactness.
- Views out of:** Views out to Banyule and Viewbank Hill in particular should be developed and exploited. Most other views - especially to residential and sports areas should be screened out.



ARTHUR STREETON 1888
"Gorse in bloom"



RECOMMENDATIONS
PRECINCT A9,B1,B2

I&B

Planting & Management:

Open rural character of the "Heidelberg School" to be developed.

Screening and buffer planting to be essentially indigenous (see previous lists). Exotic thickets, Hawthorns, Briars etc., planted on steeper slopes.

Broken fence line planting of Elms, Oaks, and hedges re-established.

Maintenance and preservation of remnant historic planting.

Grassland maintained by grazing.

Slopes in front of Banyule left reasonably clear.

Undulating flats maintained.

Some river and waterhole edges kept open and grazed.

grassland allowed to dry out in summer.

Investigate re-establishing Banyule swamp areas, including indigenous plantings.

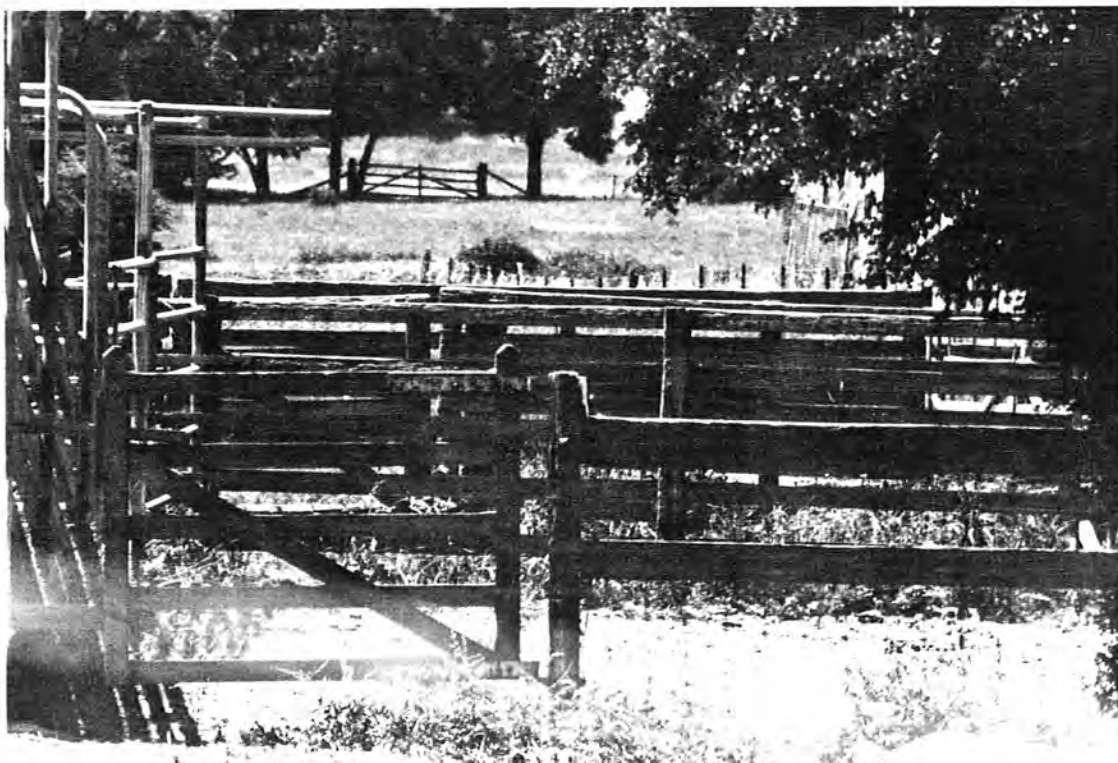
Careful study and master planning to allow compatible development to satisfy historic and natural history interests.

Careful location of paths to protect landscape integrity e.g. at foot of Viewbank escarpment.

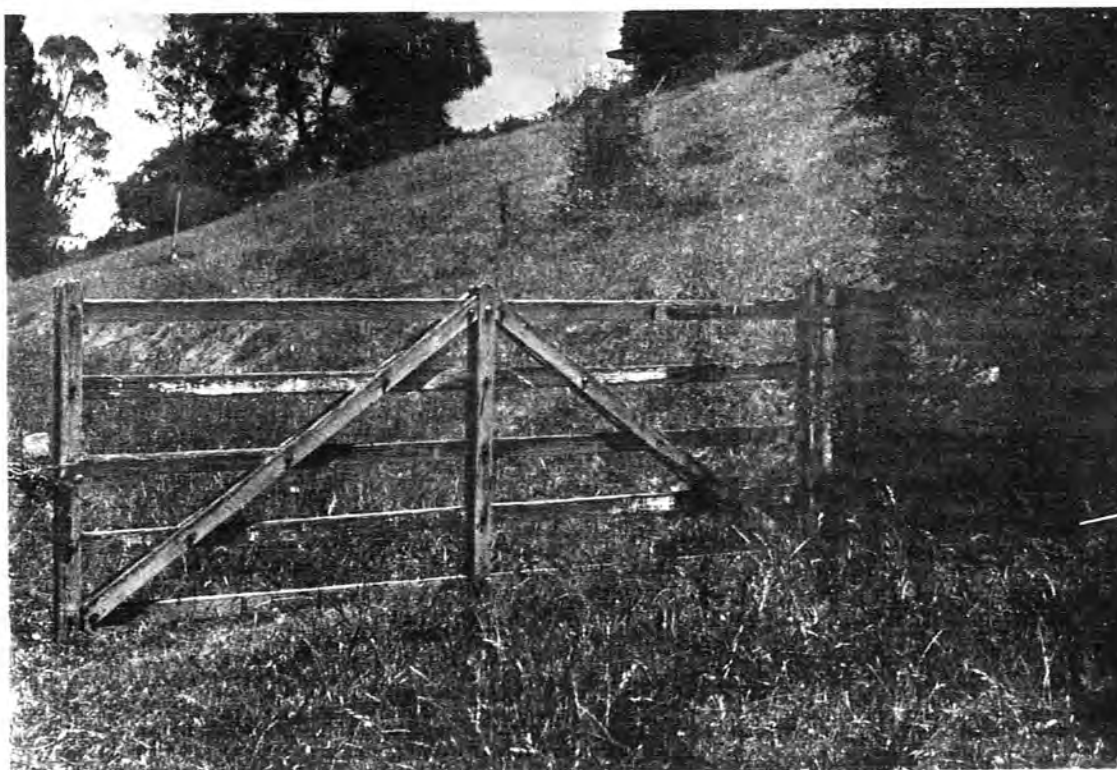
Interpretation and trails through this area must be un-intrusive and fit the broader scene.

Fabric:

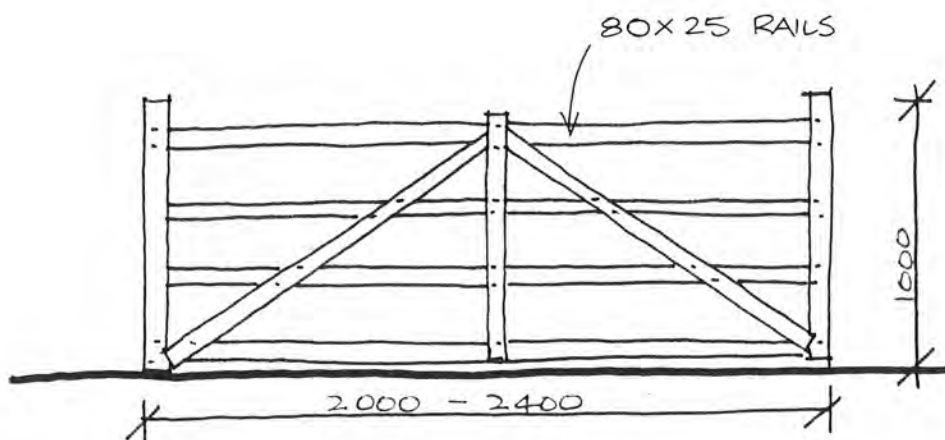
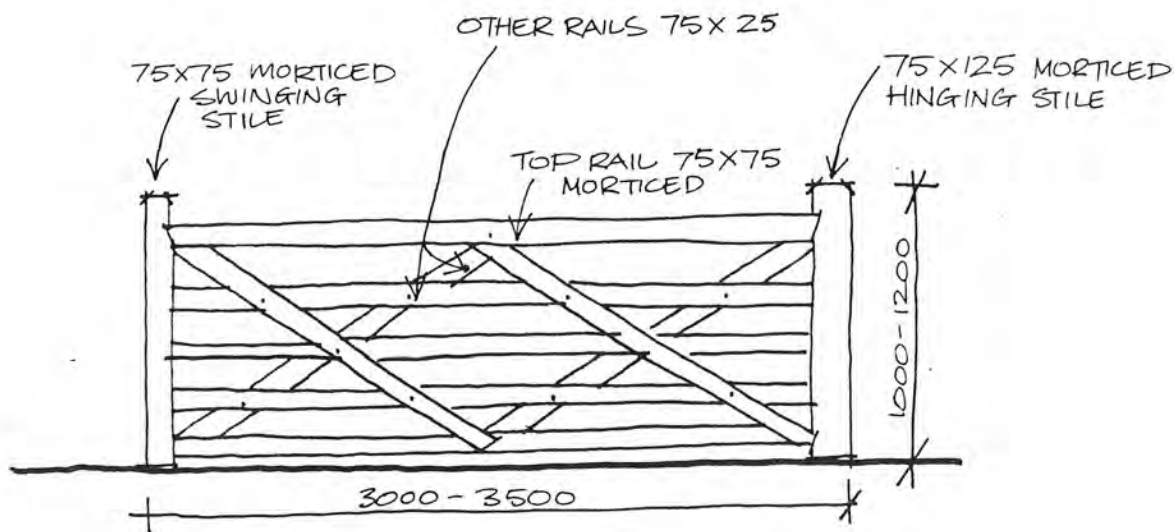
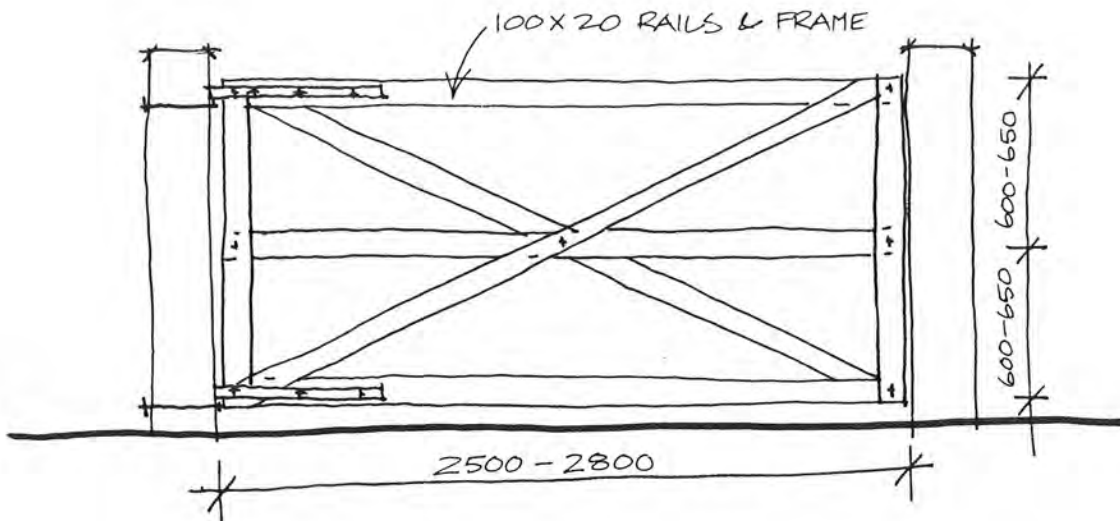
As for A9, but note in particular gate detail still in use on the site.



STOCKYARDS AND SIMPLE GATE — BANYULE



EXISTING GATE — PROBABLY RELOCATED AT BANYULE



VARIOUS TIMBER GATES C. 1900

PRECINCT B2.

- LOCATION:** Native Gardens and Parkland.
Banyule Road and Somerset Drive.
- ANALYSIS:** Although it is a disturbing intrusion in the Banyule/Viewbank landscape, however the native gardens area is of recent cultural interest because of the people involved in its development and the fashion in landscaping it represents. This area is part of Joseph Hawdon's important Banyule estate, see notes on Precinct B1 and earlier notes on the prestige estates.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Conserve the integrity of the Native Gardens and extend as a screen at rear of wetlands to the ovals. Adaptation to "dusky woods" theme would assist the overall integrity of the broader landscape, i.e. garden areas - the edges especially should be dominated by local eucalypt and woodland species and not species selected for their floristic qualities alone. An opportunity for mixed native planting to provide habitat values for native bird species.
- Broad Character:** Woodland with sports fields and garden area carved out. A buffer between historic area and residential. Refuge habitat for birds using open wetlands.
- Views into:** Generally concealed.
- Views out of:** Controlled and directed to adjacent features of Banyule and Viewbank while screening subdivisions etc.
- Planting & Management:** Native planting and essentially indigenous, based upon red gum dominated associations. Thicket planting developed for bird habitats.
- Fabric:** To suit function but be compatible with adjacent historic areas.

PRECINCT B3 and B4.

- LOCATION:** YARRA RIVER.
Warringal Wetlands, Banyule High School and Fanning Bend.
- ANALYSIS:** A landscape of marginal historical significance but influenced by actions over a long period each of historical or cultural interest. This area comprises part of the Banyule flats and part of the flats of Verner's estate, later incorporated into Banyule. The bend contained Peter Fanning's orchard and the area north of it was also associated with him. It is thus a central area for the Heidelberg riverlands' most important agricultural phase. Mainly owing to the lack of intactness of the area and restrictions on development recommended for adjacent areas recommendations for the area could allow flexibility in development.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Continued adaptation of the area for habitat and recreation purposes. Conservation of the "wetlands" which represent a major popular movement in recent history as well as of other associated planting is essential. Removal of disturbing elements e.g. miniature avenue of conifers and maples is encouraged. As elsewhere a theme to assist in screening and unification could be the "dusky woodlands" referred to elsewhere.
- Fanning Bend should be left open and interpretation refer to its earlier use. The outlook from the very important Heide property opposite should be considered when landscape master plans are drawn up for the area.
- Remnants of old fence lines and original estate boundaries should be conserved and in places partially recreated.
- Broad Character** Sports fields and institutional structures in open and closed woodland with clearings or open meadows.
- Views into:** There is overview from residential areas and Heidelberg Park and therefore it is important to integrate the area into the valley as a whole. Develop views from Heide and Heidelberg Park, while screening intrusive elements like the high school.
- Views out of :** Not critical, but school should be landscaped to appear less dominant.

Planting & Management:

Indigenous riparian species as previously listed. Retain other native plantings. Remove pine plantation and exotic avenue. Wetlands need to be redeveloped, opened up and integrated with broad landscape, planting of thickets across to the river would assist this. Retain poplar thickets and willows. Grasslands can be kept close mown to facilitate ease of passive recreation users. Undertake conservation practices on remnant boundary plantings e.g. Robinia Pseudo acacias.

Fabric:

Not critical from a historical point of view but should be of good quality being crisp 1980's design compatible with adjacent historic areas.

PRECINCT B5.

LOCATION: ST. JOHN'S PRECINCT, HEIDELBERG GARDENS AND HEIDELBERG PARK.

ANALYSIS: An area of high cultural significance, made up of three originally separate but closely related places containing very important individual elements e.g. St. John's, the original village plan for Warringal is one cause of the distinctiveness of the area. but the landscape has evolved under a number of influences. The strength and intactness of the Victorian theme, developed by Peter Fanning, of the dominant conifers with deciduous trees as a sub-theme is still very evident.

St. John's built 1849-51, evoked the village churches of England. It was an important focus for the new village of Warringal and at the same time was the focus for the landscape of the gentlemen's estates being created in the Yarra valley.

By the 1850's the combined racecourse and cricket-ground were famous. The gardens and the exotic plantings elsewhere in the parklands were created during the 1880's with some alterations in the Edwardian period and subsequently. Conifers planted at St. John's linked the Church with the Gardens and cricket ground.

RECOMMENDATIONS: An important and significant area that should be within its own "urban conservation zone". Conservation practices are required overall and it may be possible to put a case for some restoration or partial reconstruction to ensure that the historic integrity is preserved or reinstated.

The whole area should be generally, but not wholly under the influence of the Victorian theme. This should mean the removal or replacement of elements which are not sympathetic to this theme, e.g. most of the carpark planting. New structures should not be re-creations or pseudo Victorian but should be sympathetic to the character of Victorian architecture with particular emphasis on scale, roof, pitch and materials.

- Broad Character:** Victorian and Edwardian landscape to the park, church and oval with conifers as the dominant theme and a sub-theme of deciduous exotics. A country town atmosphere pervading in the east.
- Views into:** This precinct is visually accessible and will always remain so. Management and detailing must be appropriate both for those making a close inspection and for those passing through and by speed.
- Views out of:** It is essential that if the character is to be retained "modern" intrusions are kept to a minimum and therefore screened.

Planting & Management

General: A Master plan should be developed to define more clearly landuses and management practices for the parkland. There should be a maintenance and replacement program to maintain major exotic plantings. Redesign and replanting of carpark with copses of conifers and understory of deciduous trees and evergreen exotic shrubs which blend with the existing Victorian plantings should be undertaken.

Generally a high standard of maintenance, but the upper conifer woodland should be kept with coarse grass.

The area around St. John's along the river should retain its derelict country lane atmosphere.

Weeds should be removed and some escaped exotic species.

Regenerating indigenous plants should not be allowed to dominate but managed to maintain a composite landscape.

Re-planning and planting of St. John's is required to reduce the impact of the new building, tennis court, parking and garden of remembrance which currently disturb the vital contribution the surrounds of St. John's make to the Church and the broader landscape.

Boundaries and road frontages to St. John's and the other major elements should be well defined with hedges and fences (sawn post and rail or picket) and intrusive elements, screened with plants relating to the areas historical development.

Planting & Management
Detail:

1. **Heidelberg Park:** We concur with the recommendations found in the Part I Conservation Study for Heidelberg.

"The restoration of Heidelberg park to its late nineteenth century period style, should be considered a priority. With this in mind, it is the old section of the original garden (see photograph and plan) which requires the most work.

Within the old garden the main contributive plants include: Araucaria araucana, Cedrus libanii, Pinus halepensis, Pinus strobus, Picea var. and Quercus var. The arched or joined Elm, is also an important element, forming the gateway to a pedestrian path. Other contributive landscape elements include: basalt pitched, stream channel, basalt bridge abutments and rockery retaining walls. Intrusive elements, which should be screened or replaced, include: steel balustraded, concrete deck bridges; concrete sumps and treated pine log fencing and signs.

Restoration Proposal:

The c1890 photograph can be used as a basis for restoration. Bridge balustrading, decking and structure (as required) should be restored to former saltire cross balustrading and boarded timber decking. Balustrading should be painted white and could be constructed in bolted steel, if timber is considered unsuitable.

Tree Planting;

Existing tree species should be maintained as listed above. Other trees should be identified and where contributive to the period style, maintained and replanted as necessary. Pampas-grass (Cortaderia selloana and C. ruidiuscula) and New Zealand Flax (Phormium tenax) should be reintroduced where practical.

Path edges should be re-established using basalt rocks to match existing and/or clipped Box (Buxus sempervirens) or Privet (Ligustrum ovalifolium) hedges. This treatment should prevent shortcuts currently taken by pedestrians and cyclists which break down the formal pathway system. The gravel surfacing of pathways should be restored.

The existing concrete sump needs to be screened with exotic evergreen plant material and the safety barriers should be replaced using rockery-retained garden beds."

2. **Cricket Ground & Surrounds:** We generally concur with the intent of the recommendations found in the Part I study. However we believe the carpark to be a greater issue needing special and urgent attention.

We further believe a picket fence to be now inappropriate for the cricket ground and support a diamond top single rail fence.

The area requires the following works; screen planting of toilet blocks with exotic evergreen material; redesign of the carpark including removal of most of the planters and planting; replanting with conifers and some deciduous trees.

COMPLETE PLANTING OF RIDGE WITH ESSENTIALLY DECIDUOUS SPECIES

TIMBER RAIL TO CRICKET GROUND

RETAIN POPLARS

NATIVE WOODLAND WITH CLEARINGS

REDESIGN CAR PARK & PLANTING

REMOVE PINES

CONSERVATION OF OLD TREES
SLOWLY INCREASE SHRUB PLANTING ALONG LOWER PATHWAYS
MAINTAIN AS A MIX OF VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN

TIMBER RAIL

CONSERVATION OF POPLARS WITH REPLACEMENTS AS NECESSARY

PRECINCT B5

CONSERVATION OF OLD FRUIT TREES & POSSIBLE PARTIAL RECONSTRUCTION TO AID INTERPRETATION

CONSERVATION OF OLD TREES AROUND ST. JOHNS
NEW PLANTINGS TO REDUCE IMPACT OF NEW ELEMENTS.
RELOCATION OF GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE TO PRESERVE "COUNTRY" ATMOSPHERE OF AREA ON EAST

RETAIN SEMI DERELICT LANEWAY
MIX OF EVERGREEN & DECIDUOUS WITH HEDGE PLANTS
MIXED RURAL FENCES

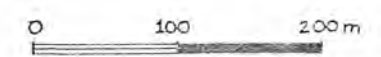
RETAIN OPEN SPACE

RESTRUCTURE PLANTING TO BETTER IDENTIFY C19th & C20th ELEMENTS

PRECINCT B6

INDIGENOUS EDGE PLANTING

YARRA RIVER



Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS
PRECINCT B5, B6



PRECINCT B6.

LOCATION: Warringal Park and Sills Bend.

ANALYSIS: An area of cultural significance, in particular Sills Bend. Originally part of William Verner's estate but added very early to Hawdon's Banyule. The area was subdivided into small blocks in 1853 for market gardens, allotments and orchards. Sills Bend was an orchard until 1926 when it was purchased for parkland. The area was noted for its swimming holes and beaches. Since settlement the area remained under agricultural land-uses, until the last historical period in our review, but with a continuous reduction of land under cultivation. Remnants of orchard; pear, plum, apple, mulberry and quince; possibly in excess of 100 years old still appear within the more recent plantings. Old willows originally planted to stabilise the river bank also survive.

Warringal Park and sports ground development represents a recent but very strong and formal landscape treatment.

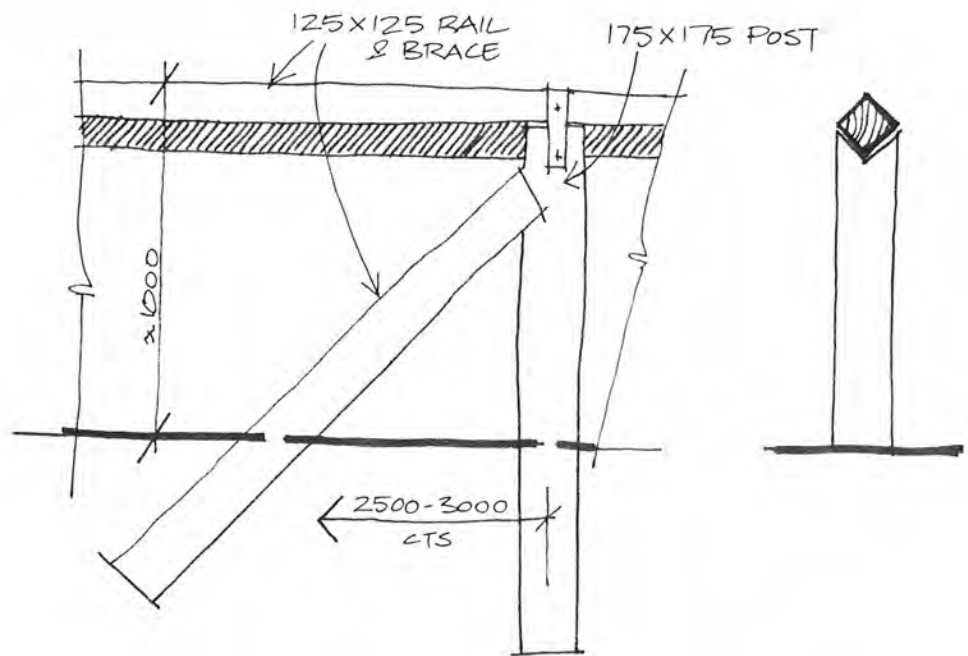
RECOMMENDATION: Conservation of the area should include retention, replacement and protection of the poplars especially, and other deliberate deciduous plantings associated with the "trotting track" surrounds.

The "trotting track" and Warringal Park require considerable revitalization and should be done in a manner compatible with the original C.1930's style.

A carefully researched landscape plan for Sills Bend is required. This should respect both the very old orchard and slightly more recent plantings, but should rationalize the more recent plantings to enhance the integrity of the orchard remnants. Some partial orchard reconstruction may be necessary to assist interpretation. Conservation practices to protect remnant orchard species is critical. Of importance is the retention of the grassland understorey and wattle/willow river edge which all respect the significant historic characteristics of the area.



PICKET FENCE — NOTE SCALE
SCOTT'S CHURCH, HEIDELBERG c1860
(from a "Pictorial History of Heidelberg")



DIAMOND TOP RAIL FENCE

Broad Character: A composite landscape. Exotic formal to derelict orchard. Sills Bend generally enclosed meadow with patterns of orchard and exotic trees and wattle/willow river edge.

Views into: Develop views from B5 but generally screen out deep views into the area. Allow formal plantings to be seen from distant hills.

Views out of: Generally not appropriate. Especially ensure modern parkland development at Banksia Park does not intrude.

Management & Planting:

Major maintenance and replacement program of formal poplar plantings, with redesign to complete enclosure. Detail research and master plan for Sills Bend to enable this popular passive recreation area to accommodate its summer crowds while protecting the historic features - especially the remnant orchard species. Remove some more recent plantings to re-establish orchard character; critical to protect and maintain old orchard plantings e.g. mulberry, pear and apple. Retain mixed overgrown river banks, especially the old willows and escaped fruit trees and wattles. Grass should not be manicured but left meadow-like.

Fabric:

Very simple and minimum of fencing which should relate to B5. Slightly meandering gravel paths in Sills Bend and more structured gravel elsewhere. Play down all other structures.

Planting should be of essentially deciduous trees with evergreen shrubs. Current impact of toilet blocks, carparks and grandstand should be reduced with shrub planting.

PRECINCT B7.

- LOCATION:** YARRA RIVER
Banksia Street North.
- SUMMARY:** An historically interesting area, but changes in recent history have been dramatic after a period of severe dereliction. In comparison with the area south of Banksia street, which was part of the Leighton Estate, this area was made part of the township, being divided into several small lots. This fragmentation was reflected in its later history. Area includes sites of very early cottages, gas works, mill, soil pits and river. Area now dominated by nursery, and Banksia Street.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:** Unifying landscape as a heavily treed river crossing screening out peripheral uses. This will reinforce the river character, the valley and the crossing. The character of the valley must become more dominant than the now dominating road space. The area is totally out of character and inappropriate as a site for any historical memorials or features as recently proposed.
- Some clearings with elements of past landscape e.g. orchard remnants and gravel paths are appropriate and will link back to St. John's area.
- Broad Character:** Open and closed natural woodland concealing picnic areas and public access points. Emphasis on the river and its valley as a gateway and boundary between the municipalities, some sense of history and dereliction within the setting.
- Views into:** Generally limited to edges.
- Views out of:** Generally screen.
- Management & Planting:** Long term plan to remove the nursery or have it totally dominated by the valley. The area to have a coarse but clean maintenance. Plantings to be indigenous dominated by River Red gum associations. Orchard remnants in clearings are appropriate.
- Fabric:** Important areas are road sides. Landscape should dominate over simple timber barriers. Try to play down traffic devices and signs. Fencing could relate back to St. Johns' area, but hardwood sawn, light section post and rail is preferred.

PRECINCT B8.

- LOCATION:** YARRA RIVER, BANKSIA STREET SOUTH
- ANALYSIS:** An area of very recent parkland development over the top of a soil extraction, landfill and tip site. Originally flood plain landscape of great cultural significance as part of Leighton, one of the socially, agriculturally and pastorally important estates of early Heidelberg, and later as part of the pastoral landscape of the Heidelberg School. (see B9 & B10). The parkland is currently raw with the amenity blocks and penetrating asphalt road ways dominating. Wetlands have been developed and the plantings are essentially of Australian species.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:** Continued management to develop as wetlands and picnic area within "dusky woods". The development should not be allowed to intrude further south and should be slowly modified to reduce its impact on that area. The gateway recommendations from B7 also apply.
- Broad Character:** Open and closed natural woodland concealing picnic areas and access ways. Emphasis on the river and its valley as a gateway and boundary, see B7.
- Views into:** Screen out.
- Views out of:** Limit to discrete vistas to the south.
- Management & Planting:** To suit current park functions. Plantings to be indigenous at all boundaries.
- Fabric:** Low key elements to disappear into the landscape. N.B. the current scale and finish to the road and the character of the toilet blocks are not low key or unintrusive.

PRECINCT B9 and 10.**LOCATION:**

YARRA RIVER
Glenard Drive East to Burke Road.

ANALYSIS:

A flood plain landscape of great cultural significance, of national and possibly even wider importance. A notable scarred tree is a reminder of the area's rich pre-history. The area was famous for the prestige estates established after white settlement, Leighton, Hartlands, Charterisville and Waverley estates which had far more than local importance for agriculture and whose contribution to social and cultural development in the 1840's and 1850's is of national importance. In its later pastoral phase the landscape was part of that wider one which inspired some of the most famous works of the Heidelberg School. The camp at Mt. Eagle was followed by a series at Charterisville and in this century Heidelberg's pastoral landscape, of which this was a part, continued to inspire artists, including Sidney Nolan at Heide.

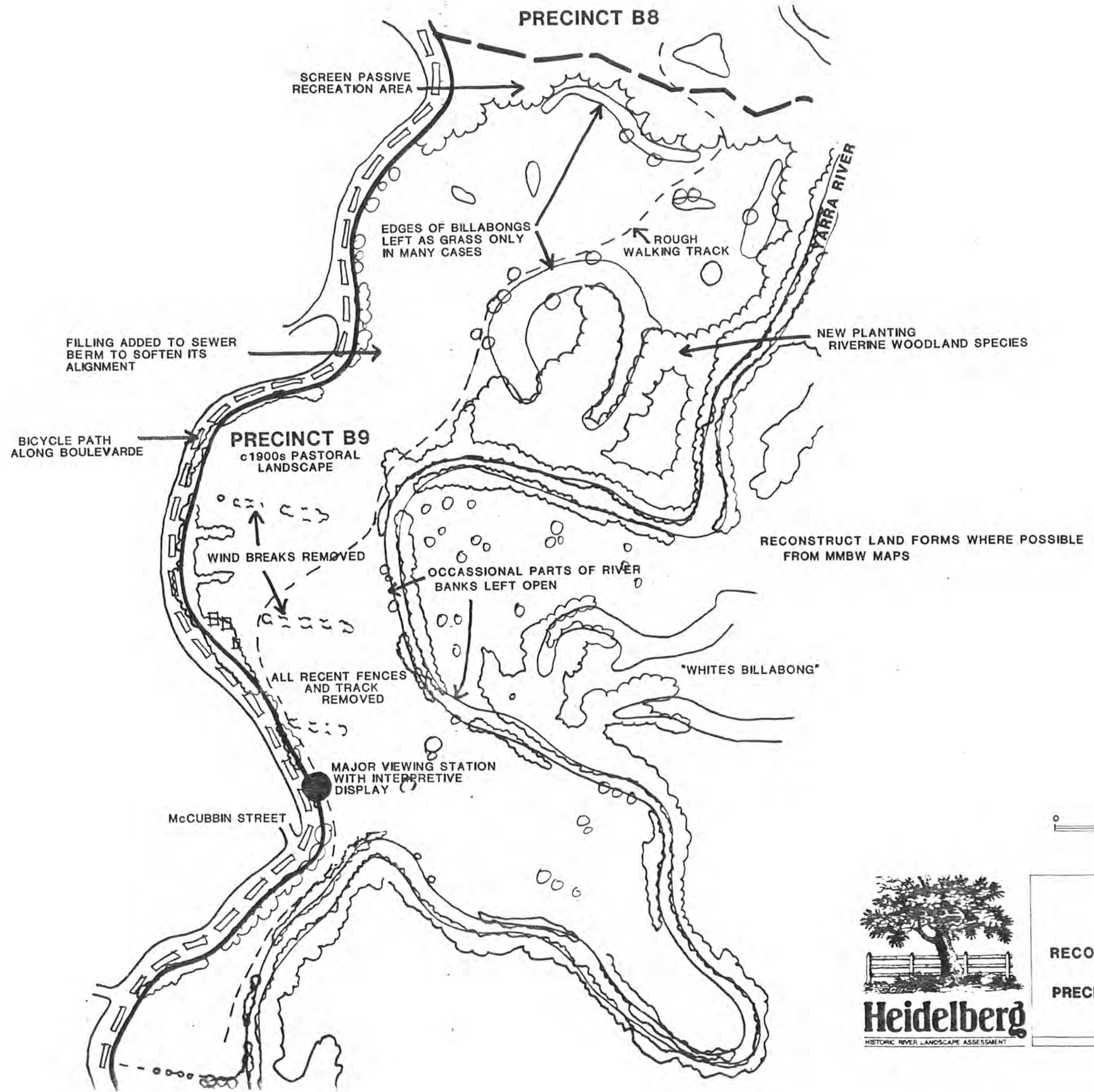
The pastoral landscape was altered by Chinese market gardeners and more recently has been fragmented by hedgerow/wind break plantings, public trails, sewer lines and an aborted golf course. The river in the area was well known for a number of popular swimming beaches until about the 1960's. Scarred trees eg. the "step tree" are a reminder of aboriginal history and occupation.

The recommendations should respond in particular to the contribution of the landscape to the culturally highly significant Heidelberg of the late 1800's.

RECOMMENDATION:

While the Banyule/Viewbank area now most accurately presents a landscape like that depicted by the artists, the Banksia Street to Burke Road area was the focus of their activity, and still preserves many of the elements or foregrounds of major paintings and for these reasons is of major significance. This warrants conservation of the characteristics of that landscape which may in fact now require progressive reconstruction or restoration.

This landscape should be modified to re-introduce the undulating flood plain landscape of generally wet grasslands and



RECOMMENDATIONS
 PRECINCT B9

Heidelberg
 HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

L&B
 No. 101

ponds using detailed maps of the M.M.B.W. 1911-C.1930 as a guide. There should be occasional exotic trees associated with fence lines, willow edged sections of the river and waterholes, some grassed treeless river banks, grazing cattle, simple fence layout. This will mean removal of recent cypress hedgerows, rationalization of recent fencing, reshaping of the flood plain, and generally simplifying the setting.

The promontory at the end of McCubbin Street is a major outlook with historical connections. It should feature as the main area to focus interpretation and honoring of the artists' work, including any possible memorial. A revised landscape Master plan for the area should be developed using this view point and selected paintings of the period to re-establish the feeling of the outlook from this site.

It is of utmost importance that this Master plan should include the middle ground which is on the east side of the river. This in overview could be again a "dusky woods" backdrop, but when viewed from selected locations from the western side of the river should be an open woodland with grass understorey to further wetlands (especially critical at Whites's Billabong).

Broad Character: Rural - open grazed meadow. Generally large scale enclosure with indigenous riparian plants broken up with isolated deciduous exotics associated with fence lines. All other elements to be minor contributors to the landscape.

Views into: This area is overlooked from the Boulevard and above and forms the foreground to more distant vistas. The foreground can borrow character and strength from distant views and backdrops therefore the quality and strength of Bulleen landscapes are critical to the foreground quality. Particular vantage points should be exploited and the visual design of the landscape be manipulated from these points e.g. end of McCubbin Street.

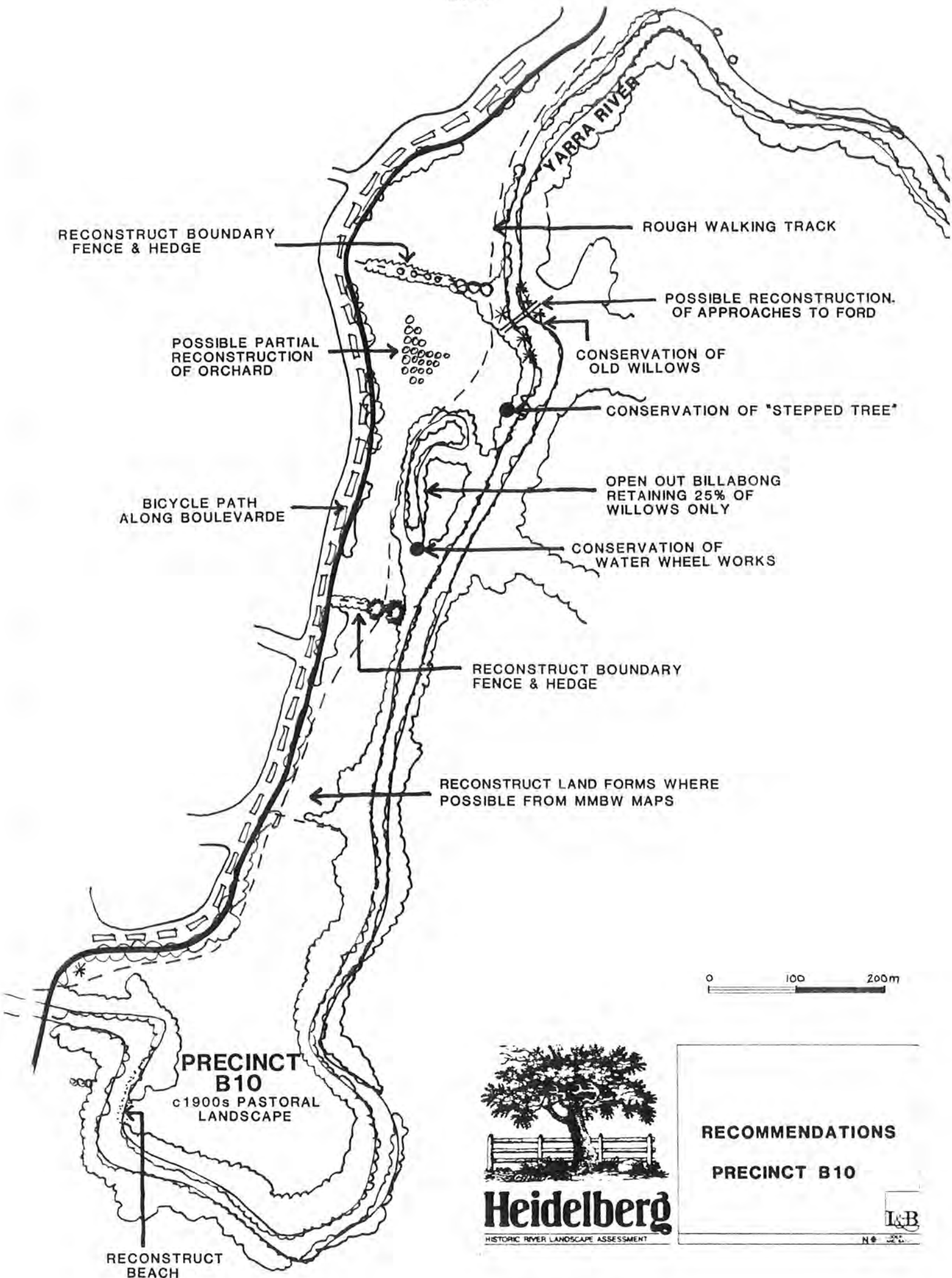
Views out of: As above - views out of should re-inforce the character. A grand opportunity exists to "borrow" from the setting of "White's Billabong" and Bulleen Park to do this. But equally screening of intruding elements at Bulleen Park and Veneto Club are essential.

Management & Planting:

Ideal management would be as open grazing country with fencing kept to a minimum. If grassland is maintained other than by grazing it should be kept as a rough and not close mown sward. Planting should reflect typical scenes from about the turn of the century and include some grass river banks, Willows, remnant Eucalyptus and isolated Elms and Oaks along fence lines or associated with structures. Embankment or screen planting could be achieved with old world plants like hawthorns. Recreating the orchard at Charterisville and the hedge boundary between Charterisville and Hartlands will divide the two landscape units as well as restoring some of the essential foreground of the artists, and an important historical feature.

Fabric:

Essentially as for B1 and A9, i.e. hardwood fences - split post and rail or wire, simple gable structures and crushed gravel or consolidated earth paths.



0 100 200m

PRECINCT B10
c1900s PASTORAL LANDSCAPE



Heidelberg
HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS
PRECINCT B10



N 0 30



Arthur Streeton 1867-1943 Australian
Yarra Valley at Heidelberg, 1888
Oil on canvas
40.8 x 76.2 cm.
On loan from the estate of Sunday Reed

PRECINCT B11.

LOCATION: CHELSWORTH PARK, GOLF COURSE AND BOULEVARD SPORTS AREA.

ANALYSIS: Of historical significance; the area is associated with Chelsworth. Chelsworth was one of the grandest of the prestige estates of the 1840's and 50's (see B9 & B10). The old house of Chelsworth has become after much alteration the present Golf Club house. Remnants of the house and its approach avenue still remain.

Shortly before becoming a golf course and active sports area the precinct was used for market gardening and dairying.

As in the case of precincts No. B3, B8 and B12 the more recent recreational activity dominates over any past influences in the landscape and must be considered in the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: While this is an historically important area, development should be towards a well designed integrated parkland that respects the remaining Yarra wetlands and accomodates the various recreation venues in a unified landscape. Special study is required to see if it is possible to redevelop the golf course building respecting the past structure and its immediate landscape.

Sports fields and active recreation areas should be set in a woodland. The intrusion of exotic plant material is permissible, however it should be concentrated at nodes of intense activity and as a transition from the adjacent residential areas.

Broad Character: Open woodland with screening and enclosure to integrate sportsfields. Isolated exotics appearing as remnants or garden escapes.

Views into: Exploited and developed, eg. a vista is possible on Chelsworth Homestead from the Boulevard above Wilson Reserve.

Views out of: Screen residential areas and develop glimpses into the wetlands area.

Planting & Management:

Manage to suit recreation functions but also to protect B12. Develop natural "copse" open woodland plantings and cull out most recent exotic plantings. Conifer wind breaks should be retained but need more cohesion.

Golf course should be developed as an open links character through scattered redgum woodland. Dominant sports buildings and infrastructure to be screened with thickets of indigenous plants.

Fabric:

To be good quality park design allowing the landscape to dominate. Buildings and infrastructure should not feature.

PRECINCT B12.**LOCATION:**

YARRA RIVER EDGE
Burke Road to Wilson Reserve.

ANALYSIS:

An area of significance especially for its habitat potential. Originally most of the area belonged to Chelsworth (see B11) but parts belonged to Charterisville (see B10) and to other smaller estates, including Ivanhoe. The area was eventually all cleared and farmed, but has in recent times begun a regeneration process to a closed woodland, currently heavily weed infested. The river bends, which have shown downstream migration patterns and the billabongs of the area are a main feature. Past historical influences are now outweighed by more recent regeneration of the native and exotic plants. The conservation activities of Wilson, Bailey and Eiseman were important in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Management of the area including some specific restoration works to return the landscape to a close approximation of its pre-farming character. Adaptation will be required for public access and because of the extent of exotic plant intrusion.

Special attention should be placed upon Wilson Reserve to honour those who worked to preserve the natural beauties of the Yarra.

Broad Mixed Character:

Closed mixed woodland and swamp.

Views into:

Generally concealed.

Views out of:

Generally concealed.

Planting & Management:

Manage as an "accessible:" wetland habitat.
Paths should be defined and structured.
Noxious weeds should be removed.
Regeneration of indigenous material should be fostered but exotics retained, especially at Wilson Reserve picnic and playground.
Wetlands should be protected from pollutants, e.g. fertilizers. Some river bank/wetland areas should be contiguous and the paths directed around them. In principle the wetlands should be expanded and have increased buffer areas rather than the reverse. (Management recommendations of section 2.2 of Yarra River Study - Dights Falls to Burke Road are supported, P57).

Fabric:

Simple "bushland" quality, hardwood furniture.

PRECINCT B13, C1, C2 and C3.**LOCATION:**

DAREBIN CREEK AND YARRA RIVER
Railway viaduct to Wilson Reserve.

ANALYSIS:

Made up of a series of historically important landscapes, some with highly significant pasts. Most of the land is in private hands. There are sloping, often steep escarpments to the river and occasional isolated flats in the bends. The area included the river or creek frontages of some notable estates while Lucerne, one of the most important in the district, lay across the Darebin. The railway viaduct (C3) and especially the road bridge (C2) are of significance. At the Bridge is the former Darebin Hotel, with a rich history (C3). A major flat is now the Sparkes Reserve (C2), once one of the Chinese market gardens in this precinct, and retaining important relics of earlier periods, now somewhat diminished by later inappropriate design. The area on both sides of the Lower Darebin Creek has attracted many artists, some of considerable significance. Some lived in the pleasant residential area with its many interesting houses and strong character at the end of Waterdale Road, but no group comparable to the Heidelberg School existed - they were in fact very diverse. Norman McGeorge made his house a centre for modern artists but, important though this was, there was not that extraordinary relationship between artists and place which distinguished the camp at Mt. Eagle. The McGeorge house, (Desbrower Annear) however, together with its garden, (Blamire Young) is of exceptional importance.

The area derives its exceptional landscape quality from the extent of tree cover of mixed species, a succession of enclosed spaces and some fine gardens and houses on the escarpment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Conservation of the mixed closed landscape with most but not all houses concealed. Retention and historic interpretation of the flats, will mean some rationalization of recent plantings at Sparks Reserve. Research into and restoration of some private gardens would be worthwhile eg. McGeorge and Waller residences.

Broad Character: Closed mixed woodland with enclosed "common" and meadows. Character to vary from 100% exotic through mix to 100% indigenous. It is important that Sparks Reserve retain its English common character while the area close to the confluence between the rivers are dominated by red gums and the upper areas by exotics in, for example, the McGeorge garden.

Views into: Generally of closed woodland, but vistas into Sparks Reserve should be retained.

Views out of: Generally restrict; screen views of Latrobe Golf Club house especially.

Planting & Management:

This is a mixed area requiring both traditional parkland management and the more casual type as suited to the Wilson Reserve area. The area is infested with noxious weeds and suckering Elms along the creek and requires considerable attention immediately.

To contain the area properly, screen planting is needed on private land e.g. Golf Club, and as a backing to the Darebin Hotel. A landscape Master plan for the area should refer especially to this issue of containment.

Of even greater concern is the lack of continuous Public Open Space along the river and a pathway system. We support the recommendations of the Concept Plans prepared by the M.Y.A.C. for public access, Yarra River Study-Dights Falls to Burke Rd.

Fabric: In the public areas it is not necessary that furniture or structures be of historical design. They should be in sympathy with the specific atmosphere being created for each space.

PRECINCT C4.**LOCATION:**

ROCKBEARE AND DAREBIN PARKLANDS

SUMMARY:

A culturally significant landscape with elements within its fabric representing a whole range of historical periods. Today the most culturally significant landscape remaining on the Darebin. Rockbeare, on the east, was a prestige estate of the 1850's. Rockleigh, on the west, to some extent continued the tradition late in the century. Rockbeare was early valued for its potential as parkland and the properties' acquisition and development as parkland is an important chapter in the history of conservation movements of the 1970's. Some recent works, though noble in inspiration, threaten the integrity of the nineteenth century characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION:

Conservation of the culturally significant features from various historical periods, especially plants, (see historic landscape remnant, Precinct C.4) up to present.

Generally the flatter lands should be left open, the escarpments heavily planted, remnant historical elements protected and preserved with some partial reconstruction justifiable, Willows allowed to dominate the creek, native plantings kept to the fringes and steeper slopes, i.e. the modified landscape of the 1860's - 1900 emphasised but recognition given to the importance of the 1970's conservation movement and its influence.

The Master plan should be revised to take account of recent findings and the details to accompany the above recommendations.

Broad Character:

Pastoral meadows enclosed by indigenous woodland with meandering stream dominated by willows.

Views into:

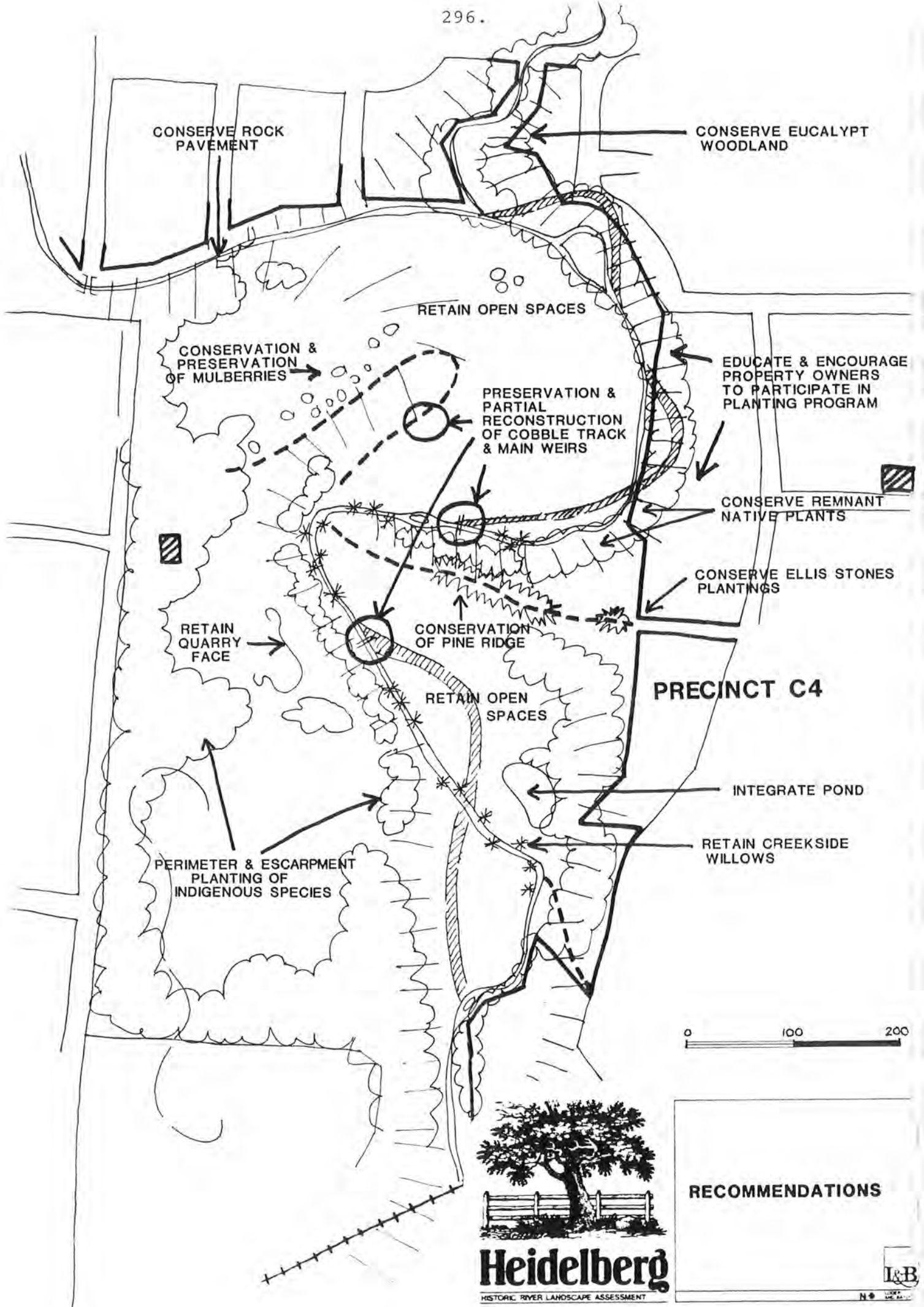
Existing and should be exploited. Continued effort to screen out disturbing backdrop features.

Views out of:

Reduce impact of perimeter housing.

Planting & Management:

Retain pastoral flavour of flats and meadows by keeping open and retaining willows along containing river edge. It is essential that preservation work is undertaken on



CONSERVE ROCK PAVEMENT

CONSERVE EUCALYPT WOODLAND

RETAIN OPEN SPACES

CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION OF MULBERRIES

PRESERVATION & PARTIAL RECONSTRUCTION OF COBBLE TRACK & MAIN WEIRS

EDUCATE & ENCOURAGE PROPERTY OWNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANTING PROGRAM

CONSERVE REMNANT NATIVE PLANTS

CONSERVE ELLIS STONES PLANTINGS

RETAIN QUARRY FACE

CONSERVATION OF PINE RIDGE

RETAIN OPEN SPACES

PRECINCT C4

INTEGRATE POND

PERIMETER & ESCARPMENT PLANTING OF INDIGENOUS SPECIES

RETAIN CREEKSIDE WILLOWS

0 100 200



Heidelberg

HISTORIC RIVER LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS



N

mulberrries, conifers and other remnants. Replacement of dying trees and partial reconstruction of vanished plantings is required to enable the historic fabric to retain its strength and to assist historic and landscape interpretation.

Boundaries should be generally planted up with indigenous species.
N.B. The large open spaces are special on this site and should not be heavily planted.

Conservation should be undertaken immediately on old weirs to enable sufficient structure to remain for interpretation.

Heavy planting as parkland will be insufficient to screen out overlooking properties. Education, encouragement, and guidance should be used to enable the area's neighbours to contribute positively to the park's setting by planting appropriately on their private properties.

Parkland management should concentrate upon weed control. A manicured product is not required nor desired.

Fabric:

Either high quality 1980's park furniture, structures etc. or pre-1900. Ideally rural flavour should be re-inforced i.e. use: gravel or cobble paths; post and rail, post and wire fencing. Structures should be simple and be of stone and/or timber. (Ideally dry or random stone work should be used) with basalt being the most likely historically used material.

PRECINCT C5, C6, C7 and C8.

- LOCATION:** DAREBIN CREEK ABOVE DAREBIN PARKLANDS.
- ANALYSIS:** Some patches of important remnant indigenous vegetation. Recommendations to emphasise future landscapes rather than existing or past landscapes.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Development of a single landscape theme on both sides of the creek based upon indigenous plants to link the separate and diverse spaces up the creek. The many intrusive elements e.g. Northlands, need extensive screening.
- Fine old trees at Tyler St. Preston provide an opportunity for a glimpse into the past and should be conserved.
- Broad Character:** Woodland - generally closed and indigenous integrating linear open space and passive and active recreation areas. N.B. Some of these latter areas should retain their own character where this is strong.
- Views into:** Exploit wherever possible.
- Views out of:** Ideally screenout or provide a landscape foil, where there is insufficient room for dense planting, to edge uses to retain the quality of the linear experience.
- Management & Planting:** Outside the active recreation areas, management should be for rough bush parkland with indigenous planting. Remnants of original flora still exist and should be conserved. Ideally seed collected from these plants should be used for regeneration and planting.

APPENDIX A

HEIDELBERG CONSERVATION STUDY

PART 1 HEIDELBERG - HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND AREAS ASSESSMENT

PART 2 HEIDELBERG - HISTORIC RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

BRIEF - JULY 1983

PART 2 HEIDELBERG HISTORIC RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

This brief covers a historic landscape study, designed to identify and document the important heritage characteristics of the riverland regions within Heidelberg.

2. STUDY AREA

The study shall be based upon that area of land within the region bounded by the heavy black line shown on the accompanying map, but shall also include any surrounding land forming an essential part of the landscape of the study area (see Heidelberg Heritage Part 2).

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are :-

- 3.1 To document the history of the study area with particular reference to the development of the area's landscape form and character.
- 3.2 To define precincts or areas of similar historical landscape identity within the study area which should be treated as common entities for planning purposes.
- 3.3 To provide an inventory and complete research material (as per attached documentation sheets Appendix A) of all landscape elements, i.e. structures, ground surfaces, fences, vegetation, etc. which combine to produce significant landscape themes throughout Heidelberg's development. In particular the development of the Riverland landscapes.
- 3.4 To identify the existing constraints, potentials and development guidelines which impinge on the conservation of the riverland landscape in order to assess the opportunities for the preservation and/or restoration of historically significant landscape settings. This will involve a careful review of Council policies, N.M.F.V. development proposals and existing concept plans. The aim is to complement the existing proposals by adding further information in order to retain the local historic interest and character of the riverland environments, where appropriate.

- 3.5 To make recommendations, suggestions and put forward ideas for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of important historic landscapes within the study area. This should include the setting of priorities for various areas of development and should identify the range of planning options available to enable appropriate conservation.

4. SPECIFIC TASKS

Stage 1 - Historical Analysis:

- 4.1 Document the historical development of the Study Area. This shall include information collected from interviews with elderly residents, photographs, paintings and other documented sources.
- 4.2 Clearly map and describe all historic precincts, areas and elements within the study area. This should include buildings which are identified in Part 1 as historically significant to Heidelberg's Heritage and are within the study area.
- 4.3 Prepare an organized and clearly referenced inventory of all oral, visual and written material used for the purpose of this study. The inventory shall clearly show the sites where significant photographs and paintings were composed.

From this inventory, record and illustrate a detailed list of all landscape elements (vegetation species, fence details, ground surface treatments, etc.) which combine to portray each of the significant landscape themes, previously identified under 4.1 (Refer to attached documentation sheets Appendix B).

During this part of the study, in establishing what items should be fully investigated the consultant will be required to explain to the Steering Committee the methods of assessment used in making determinations with respect to those items considered worthy or not worthy of detailed investigation.

* Stage 2 - Existing Conditions and Policies Assessment:

- 4.4 Carry out an assessment and clearly map the existing landscape character of the Study Area. This shall include an assessment of any existing planning proposals or action plans likely to influence the existing landscape character.

- 4.5 Prepare a separately bound report incorporating the basic documentation of the study, and providing a guide to the other material collected and prepared within the scope of the study. The report should summarise all the material collected and set out recommendations procedures and guidelines for conservation and restoration of important historic landscapes.
- 4.6 Provide such maps, illustrations, photographs, documents, references and bibliography, etc. for the retention and use by the Australian Heritage Commission, National Gallery, National Trust and the Council of the City of Heidelberg.

5. MAPPING

The historical, landscape maps and existing conditions maps shall be prepared at a scale which can most easily be presented to the public. A scale of 1:2500 is suggested as base maps at this scale are readily available.

6. FINAL REPORT

The final report should be in black and white A4 format suitable for photocopying. The format should take into account the need to produce multiple copies for future dissemination. The consultant will provide twelve copies of the full report for distribution.

7. LIAISON AND REPORTING

The consultant will be responsible to a sub-committee of the Heritage Advisory Committee. From time to time this committee may find it necessary to call upon representatives of the Heidelberg Heritage Advisory Committee.

The study is to be carried out over a four month period and the consultant will be responsible for providing an acceptable work programme to the sub-committee with appropriate reporting stages. The consultant should allow for preparation of draft reports and discussion of those drafts with the Steering Committee prior to preparation of the final report.

8. FEES

Payment will be made progressively and will relate to the accepted stages programme submitted for the projects. If agreed by the consultant and the Steering Committee it would seem appropriate that payment be made in four one monthly instalments depending on the amount of work planned to be achieved within each of those months.

The budget for the project is \$14,000, \$7,000 of which is the subject of an application to the National Estate Programme 1983/84. Council have committed \$7,000 to the project.

APPENDIX B

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71. See the picture cited in reference 59; hops are also shown by Edward Latrobe Bateman in a later picture.
72. An oast-house survived at Banyule for many years: I do not know if it has been dated.
73. Port Phillip Herald, 16 Dec. 1845 in Garden(Thesis), following p.74
74. Richard Howitt, op.cit., p.132
75. Surviving leases of the 1850's for Banyule farms stressed that such growths should be removed. (Graham Papers)
76. Garden (Thesis) p.38; R.V. Billis and A.S. Kenyon, Pastures New, Melbourne, 1930, pp.144-5
77. Garden (Thesis), p.27
78. Article by C.E. Sayers ? newspaper 18 Nov.1958 (HHS file Banyule)
79. Peel, (Thesis), p.87. 640 acres were not enough
80. Murray, op.cit., p.118
81. Weekly Times. 3 Apr.1880
82. Murray, op.cit., p.124
83. Peel, (Thesis), p.92, p.94
84. Murray, op.cit., p.124
85. See especially the drawings in Illustrated Australian News, 1 Feb.1890, although these are of a later period.
86. Anon. "Home belonging to John and Robert Bakewell n.d. (my dating early 1840's). La Trobe picture collection.
87. Port Phillip Patriot, 11 May 1843
88. Sketch map in Lease 2 Feb.1857, Hawdon Box, Graham Papers.
89. Garden (Thesis), pp.52-3. Garryowen, op.cit., p.426 ff.
90. Peel (Thesis), p.192, p.405 ff.
91. Ibid., pp.89-90
92. Lang, op.cit., p.83

93. Peel (Thesis), pp.266-7
94. Port Phillip Herald, 16 Dec.1845, in Garden (Thesis), following p.74
95. Rolf Boldrewood, quoted in Stawell op.cit., p.116
96. Gwen McWilliam, pers.comm.
97. Fauchery, op.cit., p.34
98. Garden (Thesis), p.77
99. Census 1847
- 100 census 1841
- 101 Anon. "Banyule House, Heidelberg,"...n.d. (?c.1849 - my dating). La Trobe picture collection.
- 102 Stawell, op.cit., p.81
- 103 Peel (Thesis), p.86 ff.
- 104 Garden (Thesis), pp.47-8
- 105 Peel (Thesis), p.91 ff.
- 106 Richard Howitt, op.cit., p.90 ff, p.105 ff.
- 107 Peel (Thesis), p.94
- 108 Garden (Thesis), p.74
- 109 Argus, 31 Jan.1856, p.5 (Reference from Garden)
- 110 Richard Howitt, op.cit., p.91
- 111 William Howitt, op.cit., p.30
- 112 Richard Howitt, op.cit., pp.93-4
- 113 William Westgarth, Victoria and the Australian Goldfields in 1857, London, 1857, p.257
- 114 Murray, op.cit., pp.122-3
- 115 H.R.V., vol.28, p.732
- 116 Christie, op.cit., pp.44-5
- 117 McWilliam, op.cit., p.12
- 118 Lemon, op.cit., p.16

- 119 Crawford, op.cit., pp.119-20, 161
- 120 Lemon, op.cit., p.16
- 121 Christie, op.cit., pp.18-20
- 122 'Garryowen', op.cit., vol.2, p.969
- 123 Lemon, op.cit., p.23
- 124 Mr. J. Poulter, pers.comm
- 125 Blaskett op.cit., p.20
- 126 Christie op.cit., has an interesting account and points to other literature on the subject.

References

PART III

- 1. Age, 26 Dec.1863. (References from Sue Course)
- 2. See Garden for an account of the period.
- 3. Garden (Thesis), pp.81-2
- 4. Ibid., pp.85-6
- 5. Ibid., pp.83-96 and maps
- 6. Ibid., p.92
- 7. Ibid., pp.101, 109-10
- 8. Ibid., pp.83-4
- 9. Ibid., p.101
- 10. Argus, 31 Jan.1856
- 11. Argus, 21 Nov.1855. (Reference from Garden)
- 12. Vic. Parliamentary Papers, hereafter cited as V.P.P., Session 1856-7, vol.4, Agricultural and Live Stock Statistics ... for the year ending 31st March, 1857, Appendix 1, p.46
- 13. J. Armour, The Diggings, The bush, and Melbourne, Glasgow, 1864, p.41, quoted in Garden (Thesis), p.112
- 14. Private Letter Book (hereafter cited as PLB, no.1, Graham Papers, University of Melbourne Archives

15. Peel (Thesis), p.90
16. Ibid., pp.89-90
17. Port Phillip Herald, 16 Dec.1845, quoted Garden (Thesis), following p.74
18. Peel (Thesis), p.155 ff, p.248
19. Argus, 21 Nov.1855
20. E.g. Graham to Hawdon, 20 Oct.1863, PLB no.5, Graham Papers.
21. Argus, 21 Nov.1855; V.P.P. 1856-7, vol.4, Agricultural Statistics ... for the year ending 30st March 1857
22. V.P.P. 1858-9, vol.2, Agricultural Statistics ... for the year ending 31st March 1857
23. Dingle, op.cit., p.102
24. Argus, 31 Jan.1856
25. Peel (Thesis), p.260 ff, and p.271 ff.
26. Graham Papers
27. Garden (Thesis), p.82
28. Geoffrey Serle, The Golden Age, Melbourne, 1963, p.119, quoted in Garden (Thesis), p.82
29. Ibid.
30. Hawdon Box, Graham Papers. See lease from J. Hawdon dated 2 Feb.1857 and paper date 23 Jan.1860 for sketch map of planting of bend
31. Age, 26 Dec.1863
32. Source unknown. Communicated by Terry Lane.
33. Eugen von Guerard, "The farm of Mr. Perry on the Yarra" 1855. Reproduced in Candice Bruce, Eugen von Guerard, Canberra, 1980
34. Horticultural Society of Victoria, Minute Book, 7 Sept.1864. Information from Gwen McWilliam
35. See Graham's letters to D.C. McArthur in Grahsm's PLB no.1, especially that of 25 July 1861
36. Susan Priestley, Cattlemen to commuters: a history of the Mulgrave district ..., Sydney, 1979, pp.41, 44

37. See reference 32
38. V.P.P. session 1856-57, vol.4 and session 1858-9, vol.2. Agricultural and Livestock Statistics ...
39. See reference 32
40. "Victoria and her Resources ..." See reference 31
41. Peel (Thesis), p.240
42. Ibid., p.153
43. This is based largely on the many illustrations of Heidelberg and district in the nineteenth century. See also Fences and Hedges in Part IV of this history.
44. Peel (Thesis), p.279
45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
47. William Howitt, op.cit., p.30
48. Peel (Thesis), p.281
49. William Kelly, Life in Victoria, 2 vols., London, 1859, p.372
50. Ibid.
51. Argus, 8 Feb., 1856
52. William Howitt, op.cit., p.32
53. Horticultural Society of Victoria, Minute Book, 2 Sept.1863. Information from Gwen McWilliam
54. Heidelberg Council Minutes, 10 Dec.1862
55. Ibid., 11 Sept.1864
56. Cyril Cummins (ed.) Heidelberg since 1836, Heidelberg, 1982, p.46
57. e.g. the lower lodge of Banyule. See Graham to Hawdon, 22 Dec.1863, PLB no.5 Graham Papers; also Argus, 20 Dec.1884 (Garden)
58. Photograph Cummins, op.cit., p.27
59. Argus, 8 Feb.1856
60. Ibid.

61. See various leases in Hawdon Box, Graham Papers.
62. Garden (Thesis), p.113
63. Census
64. Copy of photograph, Heidelberg Historical Society Collection
65. Photograph in Cummins, op.cit., p.11
66. Anon. 'Banyule House, Heidelberg...', s.n.d., La robe picture collection
67. Eugen von Guerard, 'The Yarra Ranges seen from a Hill near Heidelberg', 18858, National Gallery of Victoria. Prints and Drawings
68. See reference 51
69. See reference 66
70. V.P.P., Session 1862-63, vol.4, Agricultural Statistics..., Report of Collector for District of South Bourke.
71. William Howitt, op.cit., p.30
72. Argus, 31 Jan.1856
73. Graham to Hawdon, 20 Oct.1863, PLB no.5
74. William Howitt, op.cit., p.30
75. V.P.P. Session 1856-57, vol.4, Agricultural and Livestock Statistics ..., appendix 1
76. William Howitt, op.cit., p.32
77. eg. see reference 72.
78. Bateman, 'View of the Station Plenty...'
79. eg. at Charterisville. Graham to McArthur, 25 Jan.1861, PLB no.1. Firewood to the value of over two pounds had been sold.
80. Westgarth, op.cit., p.258
81. Garden (thesis), p.9s7 ff.
82. Argus, 5 Jan.1857. (Reference from Garden)
83. Garden (Thesis), p.103 ff; J. Pizzey, "Heidelberg", 4th year Architecture Essay, University of Melbourne, 1967; Council minutes.

84. Council minutes, 11 June, 1862
85. Ibid., 22 June 1861
86. Graham Papers, Hawdon Box
87. Graham to Hawdon, 22 Feb.1862, PLB no.1
88. Argus, 21 Nov.1855
89. Peel, op.cit., pp.253-4
90. Argus, 21 Nov.1855
91. Argus, 31 Jan.1856
92. Ibid.
93. Reference 87
94. V.P.P. Session 1856-67, vol.4, Agricultural and Livestock Statistics...
95. Argus, 31 Jan.1856
96. Argus, 21 Nov.1855
97. Kerr, op.cit., p.13
98. V.P.P. Session 1863-4, vol.2
99. Argus, 8 Feb.1856
100. Lease dated 1857, Hawdon Box, Graham Papers.
101. Garden (Thesis), p.109
102. Ibid., p.94
103. Graham to Hawdon, 27 July 1863, PLB no.4
104. Graham to Hawdon, 22 Feb.1862, PLB no.1
105. V.P.P. Session 1862-3, vol.4
106. Ibid
107. Graham to Hawdon, 20 Apr.1861, PLB no.1
108. Graham to Hawdon, 20 Oct.1863, PLB no.5

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PART IV

1. See Garden (Thesis), 112 ff. for an excellent account of the disasters endured by the riverlands in the sixties. Much information comes from the Graham Papers.
2. Age, 17 Dec.1863; Graham to Hawdon, 22 Dec.1863, no.5
3. Garden (Thesis), p.115
4. Graham to Hawdon, 15 Mar.1864, PLB no.5
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. see next section - Dairying
9. Age, 17 Dec.1863
10. Graham to Hawdon, 28 Jul.1864, PLB, no.5
11. Graham to Hawdon, 7 June 1864, PLB no.5
12. Graham to Hawdon, 2 Sept.1864, PLB, no.5
13. Graham to Hawdon, 8 Nov.1864, PLB, no.5
14. V.P.P. Session 1865-6, Reports of Collectors of Agricultural Statistics, George Bennett for East Bourke, p.90
15. Graham to Hawdon, 4 May, 1964, PLB no.5. William Guilfoyle gives Polygonum lapathifolium's vernacular name as Dock-leaved Redshanks. Australian Botany specially designed for the Use of Schools, 2nd ed., Melbourne, 1884, p.204. This plant is now known as Pale Knotweed: James H. Willis, A Handbook to Plants in Victoria, vol.II, Edinburgh, 1972, p.76. Willis also lists it as a plant indigenous to Heidelberg in Indigenous plants of Heidelberg, Warringal Conservation Society, 1977.
16. see reference 14
17. Ibid.
18. Graham to Hawdon, 15 Mar.1864, PLB, no.5
19. Graham to Hawdon, 28 Jul.1864, PLB, no.5
20. Age, 17 Dec.1863
21. Dingle, op.cit., p.242

22. Garden (Thesis), p.117
23. Dingle, op.cit., p.242
24. Ibid., p.243
25. Bolden to R.W.K. Martin, n.d. Bolden box, Graham Papers.
26. Dingle, op.cit., p.243
27. see reference 14
28. Graham to Hawdon, 15 Mar.1864, PLB, no.5
29. Mrs. W.J. Sebrie, Heidelberg News, 24 Jan.1936; cutting in Heidelberg Historical Society file.
30. N.G.V.
31. V.P.P. Session 1890, vol4, D.A. Gresswell, 'Sanitary Condition and Sanitary Administration of Melbourne and Suburbs', pp.22-3. I am indebted to Dr. Lynne Strahan for the reference to Gresswell.
32. Garden (Thesis), pp.129-131
33. The bibliography lists those consulted
34. Council Minutes, 10 Nov.1888
35. Ibid., eg. 13 Oct.1875
36. Bolden Box, Graham Papers.
37. Ibid.
38. Memo 1886, Bolden Box
39. Council Minutes, 14 Nov.1882; see also those of 8 Jul.1885, 10 Mar.1886, 14 apr.1886
40. Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901
41. Land Conservation council. Report on the Melbourne Study Area, Melbourne 1973
42. See photographs from the turn of the century
43. Dingle, op.cit., p.163
44. Council Minutes, 10 Nov.1875
45. Council Minutes, 12 Jan.1876
46. Gresswell, op.cit., p.13

47. Heidelberg News, 20 Apr. 1900. In the nineties there were many complaints about the drainage in this area. (see Council Minutes).
48. Garden (Thesis), p.179
49. Argus, 20 Dec.1884
50. Garden (Thesis), pp.128-9
51. Ibid., p.128
52. Ibid., p.149
53. Ibid., pp.149-50
54. Ibid., pp.157-80. The slogan was used on the estate agent's handout.
55. Ibid., p.156
56. Ibid., p.165
57. See eg. the evocative description of Sir Lionel Lindsay, Comedy of Life. An Autobiography, Melbourne, 1967, p.57
58. Garden (Thesis), pp.173-4
59. Ibid., p.182
60. Ibid., p.187
61. Cummins, op.cit., p.64
62. Garden (Thesis), p.188
63. Ibid., pp.189-90
64. Ibid., p.193
65. Ibid., p.195
66. Leader, 19 May, 1900. (Reference from Garden)
67. Victorian Railways Tourist's guide..., (ed.) J. Pickersgill, Melbourne, 1885, p.229
68. Australian, 6 Feb.1897
69. Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901
70. Guide for Excursionists from Melbourne, (printed and published by H. Thomas), 2nd ed., Melbourne, 1869, p.19
71. Garden (Thesis), p.174

72. Argus, 20 Dec.1884
73. Victorian Railways Tourist's Guide..., p.229
74. Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901
75. Guide for Excursionists ..., (see reference 70), p.19
76. Francis Myers ("Telemachus") (ed.), The Victorian Tourist's Railway guide, Melbourne, 1892, p.36
77. Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901
78. For My Law 1890. See map.
79. William Moore, The Story of Australian Art, 2 vols., Sydney, 1934, (new ed.1980), vol.I, p.30;
Ann Galbally, Arthur Streeton, Melbourne, 1969, pp.7-8;
Helen Topliss, The Artist's Camps: Plein Air Painting in Melbourne 1885-98, Clayton, Victoria 1984, p.26
80. Topliss, op.cit., p.26
81. See L. Lindsay, op.cit., p.56; Norman Lindsay, My Mask p.110
82. Gums at Charterisville: Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901
83. She oak at Mt. Eagle: Streeton to Roberts (prob. Aug.1899) in Bernard Smith, Documents on Art and Taste in Australia, Melbourne, 1975, p.253
84. Argus, 16 Oct.1934
85. eg. Streeton to Roberts c.June 1891; same 7 Aug.1908 in R.H. Croll, Smike to Bulldog, Sydney, 1946, p.27, p.92
86. Topliss, op.cit., p.25
87. Unprovable! But J.D. Lang had thought Charterisville's the finest garden he had seen in the 1850's and even in dereliction at the end of the century it was magnificent (L.Lindsay, op.cit., p.57). Mt. Eagle's was not as old, nor did it ever receive quite the same sort of praise.
88. Streeton's 'Eaglemont' may be compared with Lionel Lindsay's drawings (see list) and his descriptions cited in reference 57, together with the article and photograph in Weekly Times, 21 Dec.1901
89. Age, 19 May 1894, for the quotations. The other remarks are largely based on the many paintings and photographs of the time.
90. Streeton to Roberts, 1 Oct.1901, in Croll, op.cit., p.73.

91. See also Streeton to Roberts, letter written between 1888 and 1890, ibid., p.6
92. Argus, 30 Sept.1893
93. cf. Charles Conder 'The Yarra at Heidelberg', reproduced as a line illustration in Victorian Artists Society Catalogue, Marc.1890, no.42 which is very like his 'The Yarra, Heidelberg, Boys Bathing' - without the boys. See also last paragraph of this part (IV)
94. To my knowledge
95. Professor Geoffrey Blainey pointed this out to me, and how it is reflected in the pictures.
96. c.1888
97. Streeton to Roberts, between 1888 and 1890 in Croll op.cit., p.6; and especially same (prob. Aug.1890) in Smith, op.cit., p.252-3
98. Streeton to Roberts, 1892, in Croll, op.cit., p.40
99. Streeton to Roberts, ibid., p.18
- 100 See the lesser known paintings 'June Evening, Heidelberg', 1887 (Queensland Art Gallery); 'Spring', 1890 (N.G.V.)
- 101 Roberts in Argus, 30 Sept.1893

References

PART V

1. Age, 1 Dec.1928 and G. Butler op.cit
2. Age, 1 Dec.1928
3. Wilfred Osborne, Sixty-eight years in Ivanhoe, 1978, m.s. in HHS file - Ivanhoe, p.15
4. Gwen McWilliam, pers.comm.
5. eg. "Heights of Heidelberg" on Porter's land in West Heidelberg; Banyule Estate (from Maps in SLV collection). See map.
6. Age, 16 May 1925 (article by "G.C.")
7. See pictures by W.B. McInnes
8. Osborne, op.cit., p.8

9. See map. Based on information from Directories, maps, and Osborne, op.cit., p.15
10. Aerial photographs made by the MMBW, dated 11 April 1931
11. See reference 6
12. cf. recent aerial photographs with those of 1931
13. R.H. Croll, The Open Road in Victoria, Melbourne, 1928, pp.20-1
14. Interview in Heidelberger, 7 Jul.1982. (HHS file)
15. Osborne, op.cit., p.4. See also Mrs. Audrey Chipchase, Heidelberger, 22 Feb.1984 (HHS file Fairy Hills)
16. Daniels in Sands and McDougall Directories; Daniels in HHS file of that name
17. Directory maps, county of Bourke, 1892
18. HHS file (David Daniels)
19. Ibid.
20. Sands and McDougall Directory for 1930
21. HHS file (David Daniels)
22. Not researched in detail. See the article by the Bartrams daughter Mrs. Mary de Crespigny in Heidelberg Historian, no.96, June 1983
23. 1936 Sale advertisement in HHS file Viewbank
24. See illustrations in Viewbank file
25. See illustration in Banyule file, HHS
26. 1936 sale ad. See reference 23
27. Dingle, op.cit., p.243
28. Ibid., p.197
29. Ibid., p196
30. Rider, vol.12, no.2 May 1983, p.11 in Viewbank file, HHS
31. Dingle, op.cit., ch.9
32. Mr. Murray Griffin and Mrs. Annie Smith, pers.comms
33. Mr. Frank Watts, pers.comm. See also Mrs. K. Ashworth's photograph, HHS file Chinese Gardens

34. Photograph in possession of Mr. Murray Griffin
35. Richard Broome, The Victorians Arriving, McMahon's Point, N.S.W. 1984, pp.109-10
36. Ibid.
37. Mr. Frank Watts, pers.comm.
38. Heidelberg Historic Newsletter, no.35, 1973, quoted in Sue Course, m.s.
39. Mr.Murray Griffin; Mr. Frank Watts
40. Joyce Kearn to P.G.Moore, 1 Feb.1970 in HHS file Glenard
41. .Mrs. Annie Smith, pers.comm
42. Sands and McDougall Directory for 1912
43. See Directories
44. Age, 12 Jan.1914 in Christopher Bailey's Collection, HHS
45. Argus, c.18 Aug.1924 (MMBW Library file)
46. Murray Griffin, pers.comm
47. Mr. Ian McInnes, pers.comm
48. Heidelberg News, n.d. HHS file Heidelberg
49. Argus, c.28 Aug.1924
50. Heidelberg News, 3 Mar.1906 (Sue Course)
51. Ibid., n.d. (Sue Course)
52. Heidelberg News, 31 Mar.1906
53. Ibid. and same journal? n.d.
54. Cummins, op.cit., p.96; Heidelberg District Boy Scouts Association, bulletin no.142, May 1967 (Courtesy of Michael Jensen)
55. Mr. Alan Bunbury reports that his father was playing golf at the Ivanhoe Golf Course in 1929 but the MMBW aerial photograph of 1931 shows no sign of development.
56. Cummins op.tic., p.100 and Heidelberg News, 22 Dec.1906
57. Pers.comm
58. Heidelberg News, 19 Dec.1908

59. Ibid., 6 Feb.1909
60. Argus, c.28 Aug.1924
61. Ibid., 15 Sept.1904
62. Ibid.
63. Ibid., 24 Jun.1909
64. Ibid.
65. Age, 21 Nov.1908
66. Ibid.
67. Together with other "Recreation Grounds". Leaflet for second auction of Charteris Estate, 26 Jun.1920. (HHS Collection of Estate Agents' Plans)
68. Heidelberg News, 30 Jan.1909
69. eg. a writer in the Age - see later
70. Argus, 13 Feb.1913
71. Plan of General Development Melbourne. Report of the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission, Melbourne 1929
72. Ibid.
73. Quoted in Heidelberg News, 13 Feb.1909
74. Ibid.
75. Ibid.
76. Age, 21 Nov.1908
77. Age, quoted in Heidelberg News, 13 Feb.1909
78. Argus, 19 Sept.1904
79. Dingle, op.cit., p.145
80. Priestley, Making their Mark, p.231
81. Kew Advertiser, 13 Jan.1927 in W.D. Vaughan, Kew's Civic Century, Kew, 1960, p.122
82. Ibid., p.121
83. Mr. Ian McInnes, interview
84. alan McCulloch, Encyclopaedia of Australian Art, Melbourne, 1968 (McInnes)

85. Ibid., McGeorge
86. Richard Haese, Rebels and Precursors, Ringwood, Vic. 1981, ch.2
87. Graeme Butler, Heidelberg Conservation Study
88. Ibid.
89. Ibid.
90. Mr. Ian McInnes, pers.comm.

References

PART VI

1. Heidelberger, 6 Feb.1974 (Bailey op.cit.)
2. Brochure Protect Your Valley, Oct.1970, YVCL in Bailey. I am indebted to Mr. Alan Bunbury for correcting me on a point of fact here.
3. Age, 21 Feb.1961 (Bailey)
4. Pamphlet 1962 (Bailey)
5. Mirror, 20 Sept.1956 (Bailey)
6. Herald, 6 Jan.1972 (Bailey)
7. Sun, 7 Jun.1972 (Bailey)
8. eg. Mr. Graham Pizzey, Mrs. Nancy bush (see map)
9. Heidelberger, ? 9 Jul.1969 (Bailey)
10. eg. Northern Progress, 10 Jul.1968 (Bailey)
11. Heidelberger, mid Jul.1971 (Bailey)
12. Mr. F. Watt, interview
13. Mrs. Annie Smith, Mr. Ian Fleming, interviews
14. eg. on golf courses. See aerial photographs
15. See pamphlet October 1962 (Bailey) for a survey of soil stripping etc. along the Yarra at that time.
16. Australian, 10 Apr.1909
17. Age, 26 Mar.1977 (Bailey)

18. Dingle, op.cit., p.261
19. The principal economic benefit was perhaps the provision of hydro-electric power. Argus 15 Sept.1904
20. Dingle, op.cit., p.251
21. Haese, op.cit., p.47
22. Ibid., p.237
23. Haese, pers.comm
24. During the 1934 flood? This change is certainly post 1931 (MMBW aerial photograph) and Mr. Ian Fleming spoke in his interview of the river changing its course during the 1934 flood. The point requires further research.
25. Herald, 10 Nov.1971 (Bailey)
26. Diamond Valley News, 21 Oct.1969

APPENDIX C

References

PRECINCT A4 YALLAMBIE PARK

1. Sources for this period include (apart from Garden) Richard Howitt, p.125 ff; op.cit.
Anon. Home belonging to John and Robert Bakewell n.d. (my dating early 1840's) La Trobe pic.coll.,
Bateman, Edward La Trobe. Views of the Station "Plenty" Port Phillip District (my dating between 1852 and 1857).
2. Sources for this period include (apart from Garden) Butler op.cit., (Yallambie); H.H.S. file Yallambie - but the authenticity of much of this material would be hard to check.

References

PRECINCTS A7 and A9

1. See Withers' Tranquil Winter and old photographs of the view north east from Heidelberg. (See list)
2. T.A. Rank, Reminiscences in Heidelberg Historian, no.40, Feb.1974
3. MMBW aerial photograph 1931
4. Mrs. Duncan, Reminiscences in Heidelberg Historian, Oct.1983
5. There is no sign of it in the MMBW aerial photograph of 1931
6. Mrs. Duncan, op.cit.
7. The MMBW photographs show no dams
8. Rank, op.cit.
9. See also Mary de Crespigny, "The Bartram Family" Heidelberg Historian, no.96, Jun.1983 and the HHS file on Viewbank

References

PRECINCT B1 BANYULE 7 VIEWBANK FLATS

1. Map in the Graham Papers, Hawdon Box
2. See the early pictures. Anon., 'Banyule House, Heidelberg ...' n.d. and Anon., 'Banyule Homestead, Heidelberg' c.1850
3. Ibid.
4. Graham to Hawdon, 21 Dec.1864, PLB no.5
5. City of Heidelberg News, 16 Nov.1934

6. Graham to Hawdon, 22 Oct.1863, PLB no.5
7. Argus, 20 Dec.1884 (Garden reference)
8. See sketch maps in Graham Papers (Hawdon Box)
9. Rank, op.cit.
10. Graham Paper, Hawdon Box
11. HHS file, Banyule is main source for what follows.

1. Map Sydney W/17, Vic. Lands Dept.
2. Butler, op.cit.
3. Ibid.
4. Argus, 5 Jan.1857, quoted in Garden (thesis), p.100
5. Ibid.
6. Guide for Excursionists from Melbourne (Thjomas), 2nd ed. Melbourne, 1869, pp.19-20
7. Butler, op.cit.
8. Photograph 1870's in Cummins, op.cit., p.46
9. See 3.02, Parts II and III
10. Guides for Excursionists...; p.19
11. See 3.02, Parts III and IV; Garden (Thesis); Graham papers; obituary Heidelberg News, 27 May, 1905 (reference from Garden)
12. Council Minutes (hereafter C.M.) 11 Apr.1882
13. See obituary, Heidelberg News, 27 May 1905
14. Photograph Cummins, op.cit., p.13
15. MMBW Plan no.146 Municipality of Heidelberg. This map is dated 20 Mar.1936 but the flood level shown is that of 1911. See also picture reference 14.
16. Photograph Cummins, op.cit., p.13
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. C.M. 11 Nov.1887 (Ambiguous)
20. Perhaps grass wasnot sown until 1894 although Fanning had urged it in 1887. C.M. 11 Apr.1894; 13 Jul.1887. Cutting C.M. 14A NOV.1887
21. C.M. -various
22. C.M., 8 Nov.1893. Reference to park gates
23. Photograph Cummins, op.cit., p.75.

24. J. Pizzey, "Heidelberg", 4th year Architecture essay, University of Melbourne, 1967, p.16.
25. This section is based on postcards in the Meade Collection, La Trobe Library, and collection of Ms. Margaret Willison. (Listed in Catalogue of Illustrations). See also C.M. 12 Mar.1890 (Cricket ground enlarged).
26. Heidelberg News, 24 Jul.1915 and 25 Sept.1915. Engineer's reports of the time and later might clarify what has happened to the Gardens in more detail
27. Cummins, op.cit., p.74
28. Aerial photograph, MMBW
29. Ibid.
30. A Short History of St. John's Church of England Heidelberg, n.d. (HHS file St. John's) p.8
31. J.H. Price in Heidelberg News, 30 Sept. - 7 Oct.1932; postcard in Margaret Willison collection
32. Photograph cummins, op.cit., p.46
33. C.M., 13 Aug.1884
34. Illustrated Australian News, 1 Feb.1890
35. See various pictures of church and surrounds.
36. Mereweather, op.cit., p.32
37. Garden (Thesis), pp.129-30
38. Postcard, Margaret Willison collection
39. MMBW aerial photograph, 1931
40. A Short History ..., pp.18-19

References

PRECINCT B6 WARRINGAL PARK & SILL'S BEND

41. Garden (Thesis), p.89
42. Heidelberg News, 31 Mar.1933
43. Ms. W.J. Sebrie, in Heidelberg News, 24 Jan.1936 (HHS file)
44. Heidelberg News, 31 Mar.1933
45. See eg. cummins, op.cit., p.100

46. "Mr. Phil Wortley reminisces" in The Heidelberg Historian, no.37, Aug.1973; G. Butler op.cit.
47. See Garden's version, 1839 map
48. C.M., 10 Dec.1862
49. Directories
50. Nick Safstrom pers.comm.

References

PRECINCT B8, B9, B10. BANKSIA STREET BRIDGE
TO BURKE ROAD BRIDGE

1. Fanny Barbour Diary (m.s. La Trobe Library) (Reference from Terence Lane) Streeton, Heidelberg, 1890.
2. Based on paintings and photographs of the time.
3. Sir Lionel Lindsay, Comedy of Life, Melbourne, 1967, p.57; Letters of Graham to McArthur (Graham Papers); key pictures listed for this precinct; Weekly times, 21 Dec. 1901.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.'
6. The Milking Shed, c.1893.
7. Croll, op.cit., pp.26.7
8. Ibid., pp.14-15, 27

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX

Pictures

A list of pictures - paintings, drawings, photographs etc. which have been identified as being of the Heidelberg riverlands or of related countryside, will be lodged with the Heidelberg City Council.

Some Major paintings and Drawings

The Heidelberg School:

Arthur Streeton:

The Road to Templestowe c.1887
Yarra Valley at Heidelberg 1888
The Yarra at Ivanhoe c.1888
Eaglemont c.1889
Golden Summer 1889
Boys Bathing, Heidelberg c.1889
Twilight Pastoral 1889
near Heidelberg 1890
Spring 1890
Still Glides the Stream, and shall forever Glide 1890

Tom Roberts:

A quiet day on Darebin Creek 1885

Charles Conder:

The Yarra, Heidelberg, Boys Bathing 1890

Note: There are other pictures by these artists, of the district, and some which are important for our understanding of their Heidelberg, although they are of other places - their pictures of orchards, for example. See also:

Anon.:

"A Walk from Kew to Heidelberg" Sketches in Illustrated Australian News, 1 Feb. 1890, p.18.

Artists Associated with the Heidelberg School:

Walter Withers:

A Bright Winter's Morn 1894
Tranquil Winter 1895
The Coming Storm 1898
Tranquil Pastures c.1910
The Valley of the Lower Plenty c.1914

David Davies:

Moonrise, Templestowe 1894

E. Phillips Fox:

The Pool 1899
Spring Heidelberg (n.d.)
Moonrise, Heidelberg (n.d.)

Jane Sutherland:

Untitled: Girl in a Paddock

Earlier works include:

J.S. Prout:

Vale of Heidelberg 1847

Anon: Banyule House, Heidelberg (n.d. ?c.1849)

Anon: Banyule Homestead, Heidelberg c.1850

Anon Home belonging to John and Robert Bakewell (n.d. ?early 1840's)

Edward Latrobe Bateman:

Views of the Station 'Plenty' ... (between 1852 and 1857?)

Louis Buvelot:

Winter morning near Heidelberg 1866

Eugene von Guerard:

The Yarra Ranges seen from a Hill near Heidelberg 1858

Twentieth century works include:

Sidney Nolan:

Heidelberg c.1942

Rosa mutabilis c.1942

Photographs

Round about the turn of the century the Heidelberg district - or selected areas of it - was very popular with photographers and postcards were made of notable beauty spots and points of interest. The La Trobe Library's index to illustrations provides a guide to many photographs in periodicals and the La Trobe picture collection contains other pictures: together they form an invaluable record which often supplements the paintings of the Heidelberg School and associated artists.

The Heidelberg Historical Society has collected many pictures, including photographs, and a selection of these has been published in Heidelberg since 1836 (see Bibliography). Mrs. Sue Course has made a record of surviving material on Rockbeare; Mrs. Margaret Willison has a collection of postcards of Heidelberg.

No doubt, however, there are many surviving photographs which would be of historical value if collected.

APPENDIX E

APPENDIX

Bibliography

A full list of works consulted will be lodged with the City of Heidelberg Council. Details of many of these works are given in the references to the historical sections of the Report.

The following is a list of some main sources for the history of Heidelberg's riverlands:

OFFICIAL:

Victoria, Government Gazette, 1851 -

DIRECTORIES:

For 1839, 1841, and 1842, 1840, 1847, 1851 (various titles).
1860- Sands, Kenny and Co., and Sands and McDougall
(various titles).
(Available at La Trobe Library).

ARCHIVAL:

James Graham business and private letter books and boxes of business papers.

Heidelberg Historical Society collection. (This includes Christopher Bailey's collection of material relating to the Yarra River (2 vols.)).

PERIODICALS:

Heidelberg Historian (journal of the Heidelberg Historical Society).

Heidelberg News, 1897-1901; Heidelberger 1901-

PUBLISHED BOOKS:

CUMMINS, Cyril (ed.) Heidelberg since 1836: a pictorial history. Heidelberg 1971

GARDEN, Donald Stuart. Heidelberg: the land and its people 1838-1900. Carlton, Vic., 1972.

TOPLISS, Helen. The Artists' Camps: Flein Air Painting in Melbourne 1885-898. Clayton, Vic., 1984.

MAPS:

The Lands Department, Melbourne, State Library of Victoria and Heidelberg Historical Society have the most useful collections. Other maps are to be found elsewhere eg. Melbourne University Archives; Royal Historical Society of Victoria.