



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens
- 8.7 Honouring achievement

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 409 Environmental awareness

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Harold Boas Gardens is an excellent example of a Paradise Garden style designed landscape, making use of a sculpted landform and containing a number of plantings from its preceding life as Delhi Square, which has been overlaid with the informal planning of the present gardens that includes lakes, a waterfall, cascade, footbridges, and plantings of predominantly exotic trees, shrubs and ground covers. (Criterion 1.1)

Harold Boas Gardens is a landscape oasis that achieves high levels of design and made innovative use of exotic species, some of which had not previously been used in public plantings in Western Australia, together with native species, some of which had never before been grown outside their natural habitats. (Criterion 1.2)

Harold Boas Gardens is an important cultural landscape, which contributes to the range of parks and gardens available in Western Australia, providing rich and varied visual and spatial experiences in the Australian Paradise Garden style in contrast with other public parks and gardens in Western Australia where more formal and open settings are the norm. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Harold Boas Gardens is an important cultural landscape feature that illustrates the evolution of West Perth and the Perth region. The place evolved from a simple reserve to a traditional Victorian square in the late nineteenth and early

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

twentieth century and later to a notable garden in the Australian Paradise Garden style in the last quarter of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

Harold Boas Gardens was first developed as Delhi Square in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in the wake of the Western Australian gold boom. Its redevelopment was intended to provide a breathing space and passive recreation area in the proposed development of a business centre in West Perth in the 1970s. (Criterion 2.2)

Harold Boas Gardens commemorates the notable contribution of prominent architect and town planner Harold Boas to the City of Perth as a Perth City Councillor (1914-16, 1926-42, 1944), and in particular his influential role in assuring the inclusion of public parks and gardens in the development of town planning for the city. (Criterion 2.3)

Landscape Architect Peter Cala and Ecologist/Landscape Architect Marion Blackwell of Blackwell & Cala designed the place. (Criterion 2.3)

Harold Boas Gardens is an important example of creative landscape design, significant for its innovation and achievement in the 1970s. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Harold Boas Gardens is important for its contribution as a teaching site, used by tertiary institutions and as a reference site. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Harold Boas Gardens is highly valued by the community and is well used for family picnics and other outdoor social gatherings, and as a photographic backdrop for important social events such as weddings. (Criterion 4.1)

Harold Boas Gardens has become a recognised landmark in Wellington Street, West Perth, and contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Harold Boas Gardens has rarity value as a Paradise Garden style landscape design, developed in the 1970s, which has retained the existing mature trees planted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as introducing a number of new species into public gardens in the State, some among them being used for the first time in public gardens in Australia. Some of these were propagated for the first time, by George Lullfitz, specifically for this project from seed or cuttings of indigenous plants collected by Marion Blackwell in various regions of Australia (Criteria 5.1 and 5.2)

Harold Boas Gardens makes great use of a manipulated landform. Such detailed earth-working adds greatly to the structure and division of the gardens and has contributed significantly to the parks successful use by large numbers of visitors at any one time. Similar use of sculpted landform was widely incorporated in contemporary landscape projects at an international level, but was seldom incorporated in Western Australian schemes. (Criteria 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Harold Boas Gardens represents the evolution of the practice of designed landscapes, largely reflecting its most recent re-design and adaptation to a Paradise Garden style landscape in the late twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Harold Boas Gardens are generally in good condition in relation to heritage value. Past management practices have not detracted from the presentation of the place to a significant extent. The gardens have reached a point where some dominant species of plants have grown vigorously at the expense of other species, reducing the variety that was part of the original concept. Some major intervention will be required in due course to restore the rich variety of plantings that the original concept intended. To the non-expert eye, the place is well maintained. The original design for interconnecting grass pathways would appear unlikely to withstand the increasing shade from overhead vegetation together with heavy foot traffic in the long term. Overall the place is in good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original intent of *Harold Boas Gardens* is almost entirely intact and there are no conflicting uses. The gardens are capable of long-term sustainability with the implementation of good horticultural practices. *Harold Boas Gardens* retain a very high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Harold Boas Gardens retain the Blackwell & Cala layout and features. They also retain much original planting, however, the natural, uncontrolled reproduction of some species has been at the expense of others. Replacement planting has sometimes proved difficult because of the increasing maturity of the surrounding plantings and difficulty in obtaining authentic replacements. Additional items of furniture have also been included, but these items have generally detracted from the design intent. On balance, however, the degree to which the concept and material relate to the original concept is high so that *Harold Boas Gardens* retain a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect, with assistance from Peter Woodward of Blackwell and Associates, Landscape Consultants.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Harold Boas Gardens is a Paradise Garden style park comprising tree plantings (c. 1898-1900), a pump house (1956), toilet block, lakes and waterfall with footbridges, plantings of trees, shrubs and ground covers (1975-76). The original park on the site, named Delhi Square, was laid out and developed by the City of Perth in c. 1898-1901. It was designed and implemented by the City Gardener, John Braithwaite, as a traditional Victorian park, with a central flower bed, tree plantings, and radial paths. Designed by Peter Cala and Marion Blackwell of Blackwell & Cala, the re-development of Delhi Square to create the present garden, incorporating the mature trees, was carried out for the City of Perth in 1975-76, when the place was re-named *Harold Boas Gardens*. In the Documentary Evidence, the place is referred to by the name that was current in the respective periods.

Following the foundation of Perth on 12 August 1829, the townsite of Perth was laid out between Mount Eliza and Heirisson Island, facing the Swan River on the south, and with a chain of swamps and lagoons to the north. From the 1840s, the area of land to the north of the original townsite began to be taken up for farmlets and market gardens when drainage of the wetlands made the fertile swamp land available for agriculture. By the 1870s, the city centre of Perth was consolidated on the grid laid out in Roe's survey, and there were about 800 houses accommodating about 4,600 people.¹

In 1877-78, the Colonial Secretary, Col. R. T. Goldsworthy, named a number of streets and places in Perth in commemoration of the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, and the subsequent crowning of Queen Victoria as Empress of India, including Delhi Street and Delhi Square, Perth Town Lot V157. Around five acres in area, Delhi Square was bounded by Colin, Delhi, Havelock and Wellington streets.²

In April 1879, the Governor advised that he was prepared to grant in trust to Perth Municipal Council the land at the east of Perth contained in Victoria Park, the Mulberry Plantation, Claisebrook, the Recreation and Cricket Ground, and the area being reclaimed between the jetties at King William (later William) and Barrack streets jetties, Perth, on guarantee that they were kept 'in a proper manner and orderly condition.' The Government was not prepared to surrender its rights to the reserves at Mount Eliza, Third Swamp, Russell Square and the clay pits at East Perth, all of which were later developed as parks and gardens, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as was Delhi Square.³

¹ Campbell, Robin McK. in Pitt Morrison, Margaret, and White, John (Eds.) *Western Towns and Buildings* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1979) p. 104.

² *The Sunday Times* 4 August 1929, p. 4; and Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth* (Perth City Council, Perth, 1979) p. 317. Note: During re-development of the place in the 1970s, various visitors to the place told Marion Blackwell that the name Delhi Square derived from the use of the square as a watering place for the Afghan cameleers during the gold boom period of the 1890s. (Marion Blackwell, conversation with Robin Chinnery, March 2003.)

³ *ibid.*

In the 1880s, after the construction of Perth Railway Station, there was further expansion northwards, westwards and eastwards of the city.

From the mid 1890s, the Western Australian Gold Boom resulted in a huge increase in population and led to a building boom in Perth. There was considerable expansion of residential and commercial building in the areas to the north, east, and west of the city, and many of the large Perth Town Lots were sub-divided during the period. In September 1895, an 'Old Resident' drew attention to the 'neglect' of some of the few open spaces for public recreation in Perth, for example the reserves at Third Swamp and Delhi Square, and recommended that if the City Council had not yet obtained control of 'these valuable "breathing spaces" they should do so without delay.'⁴

In 1895, the City of Perth appointed J. G. Braithwaite as municipal gardener, and he took up his appointment in January 1896. Born in 1865, at Hornsby, Yorkshire, the son of the head forester at Hornsby Grange, from age 14 he served a five-year apprenticeship to qualify as a journeyman gardener. In 1889, he migrated to Victoria, where he worked as head gardener on estates near Melbourne. He served as Perth's City Gardener until his death in 1936.⁵

In 1896, Braithwaite found most of the parks and reserves in the City of Perth in a somewhat parlous state. Weld and Russell Squares were 'a wilderness of sand in which a few old blue gums stood forlornly'. Although Delhi Square was not specifically mentioned, it is probable that it was in like condition. To date, no records have been located regarding either laying out, plantings or maintenance at any of these squares in the prior period, or of the specific arrangement(s) by which the City of Perth became responsible for these and other reserves which were developed by the City in the late 1890s.⁶

In the wake of the Western Australian gold boom the City of Perth sought to develop a number of parks and gardens under Braithwaite's supervision, foremost among them being the development of the clay pits at East Perth to become Queen's Gardens and the reserve at Third Swamp to become Hyde Park. Pines, his favourite trees, were among the first trees planted at the latter. The period 1898-1900, has been described as 'The Golden Age of Parks' in the City of Perth, in which the aforementioned were designed and laid out, along with others that included Wellington, Russell, Weld and Delhi squares. Most of the newspaper reports published in the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century related to and Hyde Park, and Delhi Square was seldom mentioned, other than on a few occasions when it was generally grouped with Russell and Weld Squares. Similarly, in the City Gardener's Annual Reports, there was seldom mention of Delhi Square as an individual entity.⁷

In early March 1898, the Perth City Council Works Committee recommended the City Engineer prepare estimates of the cost of fencing Delhi Square, and the construction of footpaths across the Square, and tenders were duly called.

The Crown Grant by which Delhi Square was transferred to the City of Perth was not registered until 1901; however, no documentary evidence has been located to date detailing the arrangements whereby the place was developed and managed by the City in the interim period.

4 *The Inquirer* 13 September 1895, p. 8.

5 *The West Australian* 29 August 1925, p. 6.

6 *ibid.*

7 Annual Reports City Gardener in Mayor's (later Lord Mayor's) Reports, 1896-1960.

In August 1898, the General Purposes Committee recommended the expenditure of £250 on improvements to Delhi Square for the provision of footpaths and seats; however, the matter was held over for presentation to the Finance Committee for approval on 7 December.⁸ In September, the Council decided to defer improvements to Delhi Square to the following year.⁹

On 3 November 1898, the Editorial in *The West Australian* lauded the floating of a loan for £80,000 by Perth City Council, but opined that much more than that amount needed to be expended to overcome the city's defects. The work on the garden at East Perth was 'in the highest degree creditable', and 'Good attempts' were being made in regard to the as yet un-named triangular reserve at the head of St. George's Terrace, at Delhi Square, and other places.¹⁰ The Works Committee recommended the expenditure of £250 in improvements to the parks and reserves in each Ward of the city in 1899.¹¹

In July 1899, the clay pits at East Perth were taken over by Perth City Council, and subsequently were developed to become Queen's Gardens, which opened to the public on 9 October 1899. Third Swamp was also developed and renamed Hyde Park. These two major projects were the prime focus of the City Gardener in 1899-1900. Whilst Perth City Council undertook the development of each place and subsequently took responsibility for the maintenance etc. of each place, the sites were not officially granted and ownership transferred to the City until January and February 1902 respectively

In late October 1899, the Parks and Reserves Committee recommended footpaths be formed in Delhi Square 'at once', and it was among the items of expenditure the Finance Committee recommended be passed.¹²

On 13 November 1899, the Mayor's Report for the year 1898-99, drew attention to the formation of the Parks and Reserves Committee to superintend the development of parks and reserves, and the 'excellent progress' made to date, including that at Delhi Square, where trees had been planted, and footpaths were being constructed.¹³ It was intended to lay it out in similar style to Russell Square 'in the season.'¹⁴ The Minutes Book did not record whether this sum was to be provided from the raising of the aforementioned loan.

In the late 1890s, 'a vast amount of important work' was carried out to improve the city's gardens and its streets were planted 'with many species of foliage plants.' Trees selected as best suited to the climate and surrounding conditions included eucalypts, Pepper trees (*Schinus molle*), Wattle (*Acacias*), *Grevilleas*, *Stercullius*, *Jacaranda*, willow (*Salix*) and Cypress (*Cupressus*). Whilst there are no extant records of plantings at Delhi Square in the late 1890s and early twentieth century, it is probable that some of these species were among them.

By 1900, there were 14 reserves in Perth for which the City Council was responsible, a total area of 136 acres, i.e. the Council undertook all works and

⁸ City of Perth General Purposes Committee Minutes Book, 1897-1903, SROWA AN 20/1 Acc. 2893 Item 1, 22 August 1898, p. 76.

⁹ City of Perth Minutes Book, 1896-99, op. cit., 12 September 1898, p. 291.

¹⁰ *The West Australian* 3 November 1898, p. 14.

¹¹ City of Perth Minutes Book, 1896-99, op. cit., 22 November 1898, p. 339.

¹² City of Perth Minutes Book, 1896-99, op. cit., meeting 24 October 1899, p. 519 and p. 521.

¹³ City of Perth Mayor's Report, 1899, p. 2.

¹⁴ *ibid.*

maintenance at these reserves, although it did not necessarily have formal ownership at this period.¹⁵

In February 1900, it was recommended that water be laid on to Delhi Square. In March, the Council referred back to the Works Committee the matter of reticulating Delhi Square at an estimated cost of £150, and tenders were duly called and received. In early April, the Works Committee recommended deferring the reticulation for the present, but later that month the tender of James Tighe at £83 10s 8d was accepted.¹⁶

In July 1900, the Works Committee estimated the cost of trees for planting at Delhi Square at £12, which the General Purposes Committee recommended be passed.¹⁷ Subsequently, 115 trees were planted at the place.¹⁸ So far as is known, there are no extant records of the species planted, nor any plans showing the location of individual plantings.

In September, the City Gardener's report requested approval for planting 'the centre bed' at Delhi Square, but the matter was deferred.¹⁹ The reticulation had not been implemented, and tenders for this work were reconsidered in early December, when approval was given for works to Delhi Square at an estimated cost of £100. However, the problem with regard to the tenders for reticulation persisted into autumn 1901, and lack of water was probably detrimental to the early plantings.²⁰

In March 1901, Crown Grant transferred Perth Town Lot V157, i.e. Delhi Square, to the City of Perth in trust for the purpose of recreation, and a Certificate of Title was registered for 4 acres three roods 25 perches in area.²¹

In March 1901, the City Gardener was instructed to report as to the manner in which the department's expenditure might be reduced 'to the lowest possible extent', and consequently further development of the City's parks and gardens was curtailed. As a result, in 1901-02, the only work recorded at Delhi Square was looking after and watering the trees.²²

In 1902-03, Delhi Square was graded and planted with grass (probably couch as it was widely used for this purpose as was tolerant of dry conditions), and eight palms were planted.²³ In November 1904, the City Gardener reported that the trees and shrubs at Delhi Square 'have done well', scrub had been cleared off the greater part of the site, and part of one island had been cleared and planted with shrubs and ornamental grasses. No early plans of the place have been located, no other documentary evidence located to date mentions an island, and no island was shown on the sewerage plan of 1916. The greater part of the place was ready for planting with grass, and construction of footpaths 'which will make a great improvement.'²⁴ By November 1905, the grass had 'a very fair turf', six chains of cyclone wire fencing had been erected, and 22 chains of footpaths

15 'Beautifying Perth' news cutting, no details, 20 June 1934.

16 City of Perth Minutes Book, 1899-1902, SROWA AN 20/1 Acc. 2826 Item 9, 2 and 23 April 1900, p.56, p. 58 and p. 67.

17 City of Perth Minutes Book, 1899-1902, op. cit., 16 July 1900, pp. 120-123.

18 City of Perth Mayor's Report, 1899-1900, 13 November 1900, p. 3.

19 City of Perth General Purposes Committee Minutes Book, op. cit., 18 September 1900, p. 153.

20 City of Perth Minutes Book, 1899-1902, op. cit., and 3 December 1900, pp. 190-194, and p. 198.

21 Certificate of Title Vol. CCVII Fol. 13; and *Government Gazette* 1 March 1901.

22 City of Perth General Purposes Committee Minutes Book, op. cit., 26 March 1901, p. 191.

23 City Gardener's Report in Mayor's Report, City of Perth, 16 November 1903, p. 26.

24 City Gardener's Report in Mayor's Report, City of Perth, 1 November 1904, p. 33.

reconstructed, tarred and dusted.²⁵ By 1912, the early plantings of trees and shrubs were established and in need of pruning. In that year, three jarrah seats were erected at Delhi Square.²⁶

By 1912-13, Perth was considered to be 'fairly well provided with "lungs" - Russell, Weld and Delhi Squares, Queen's Gardens, public gardens, and various other open spaces for recreation', when the Town Clerk, W. E. Bold, who espoused the City Beautiful model, proposed a "green belt" around the city.²⁷ In 1913, on his recommendation the City purchased and reclaimed the inner city market gardens for conversion to parks and reserves, among them Robertson Park in North Perth.²⁸

In 1912-13, the City of Perth carried out a successful experiment in the removal of fences at Russell and Weld Squares, following which fences and borders were removed from most of the City's reserves and parks in 1913-15, including Delhi Square in 1914.²⁹

In 1915, a new tool shed with a yard was erected at Delhi Square.³⁰

A Sewerage Plan, signed 1916, shows Delhi Square, an irregular pentagon bounded by Colin, Delhi, Havelock and Wellington streets, with perimeter fencing, the verge beyond being widest on Delhi Street. The Square is formally laid out with seven paths, from the outer perimeter meeting at the central flowerbed. Four of the paths originate from the street corners, two from the mid points on the Delhi and Wellington street frontages, and the seventh from opposite Dyer Street. There is a small brick building located at the west, in the north-west triangle formed by the paths, a well and pump house with a galvanized iron construction between them located at the north, parallel to the shortest side of the pentagon on Havelock Street, and a windmill nearby, to the east of the path from the Delhi-Havelock streets corner.³¹

As the city grew, the need for lung spaces was recognised and further reserves were set aside, including the former Chinese market gardens at various locations in Perth, which the Council resolved to buy in 1916. Under the Greater Perth Scheme, between 1917 and 1934, the area of reserves under the City's control increased from 2,300 acres to 14,000 acres, all overseen by John Braithwaite.³²

In January 1923, the Perth City Council agreed to tar the footpaths in Delhi Square at an estimated cost of £95.³³ In c. 1923, *The Daily News* reporting on the care of Perth's gardens, parks and reserves, noted on visiting Delhi, Russell and Weld squares, 'the presence of many people of all ages showed these "breathing spaces" of the suburbs are keenly appreciated.'³⁴

In 1925, a news article describing the various parks and gardens in Perth stated 'Delhi-square, Russell-square and Weld-square are well known and venerable

25 City Gardener's Report in Mayor's Report, City of Perth, 1 November 1905, p. 6.

26 City Gardener's Report in Mayor's Report, City of Perth, 1906-1912.

27 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (The Cyclopaedia Company, Perth, 1912-13) Vol. 1, P. 538.

28 Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth* (Perth City Council, Perth, 1979) p. 298, and pp. 316-317.

29 Mayor's Reports, City of Perth, 1912-13 to 1914-15.

30 City Gardener's Report in City of Perth Mayor's Report, 1 November 1915, p. 64.

31 Sewerage Plan City of Perth SROWA Cons. 4156 Item 78, 1916.

32 'Beautifying Perth' news cutting, no details, 20 June 1934.

33 Town Clerk to City Gardener in City Gardener's Reports and Instructions, City of Perth, SROWA Cons. 3459 WAS 72 Item 336/1924, 23 January 1923.

34 'Our City Beautiful' in *The Daily News*, news cutting, no details, p. 46.

reserves near to the city, which form useful lung spaces for its citizens.³⁵ In November 1926, the City Gardener reported that these three squares were provided with pumping plant and a new reticulation service had been laid.³⁶

In 1926, reporting on his visit to Western Australia, the Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, Mr. J. F. Bailey, noted that both Government and Municipal authorities had made good provision for park areas, and drew attention to some varieties of trees which featured including palms and flowering trees in Queen's Gardens and Hyde Park in particular, South Australian sugar gums as street trees in a number of the earlier streets; and in parks and streets, the extensively used West India coral tree, Queensland Box trees, Kurrajongs, Moreton Bay figs and 'its small-leaved ally', Cape Lilac, and remarkable pines and Maritime pines.³⁷ Through the late 1920s, the City Gardener continued the cultivation of these varieties and others at the City's nurseries, including Plane and Cape Lilac trees.³⁸

In 1931-32, footpaths and drives at Delhi, Russell and Weld squares were reconstructed and the surface bitumenised.³⁹

In December 1936, on the death of J. G. Braithwaite, Perth City Council agreed to name one of the un-named open spaces in the city Braithwaite Park in commemoration of his service. It was decided to appoint his son, H. N. 'John' Braithwaite, as City Gardener, who had trained under his father's supervision, before being appointed as Assistant City Gardener.⁴⁰

In November 1956, H. N. Braithwaite, Director of Parks and Gardens, reported that pumping plants had been installed at several places including Delhi Square.⁴¹

In July 1968, following discussions with Mr. M. J. Lane, General Manager of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH), whose offices were located in West Perth near Delhi Square, the General Purposes Committee requested that a plan be drawn for the re-development of the place, incorporating an area for a water feature. The plan was duly presented and approved by the Committee on 11 October. After further discussions, Mr. Lane offered a donation of \$5,000 from the company to assist in the development of this feature, which would commemorate the bulk handling of wheat.⁴² Bulk handling of wheat, through the establishment of CBH in 1933, had been a significant innovation in Western Australia.⁴³ On 10 March 1969, the General Purposes Committee accepted the proposal for the re-development of Delhi Square; however, the matter was deferred as finance was unavailable.⁴⁴

In mid 1971, in response to an inquiry, CBH was notified that the City's proposed Loan Schedule included provision of \$40,000 for the project, but it was

35 *The West Australian* 18 July 1925, p. 7; and news cutting 'Parks and Gardens, City Council's Work', *The West Australian*, no details, 1925.

36 City Gardener's Report in City of Perth Mayor's Report, 4 November 1926, p. 74.

37 'A Visit to the West: Interesting Notes by Mr. J. F. Bailey' in *The West Australian*, no details, 1926.

38 'Perth's Municipal Parks and Reserves' in *The Narrogin Observer* 29 January 1927.

39 City of Perth Lord Mayor's Report, p. 14.

40 'Late City Gardener' news cutting, no details, 16 December 1936.

41 Report of Director of Parks and Gardens, City of Perth, Lord Mayor's Report, 2 November 1956, p. 64.

42 City of Perth General Purposes Committee Minutes, 1970-78, SROWA Acc. 5204 WAS 290 Item 22, 10 May 1971, p. 233.

43 'Cream of the Crop' *The West Australian* 29 March 2003, Weekend Extra, p. 8.

44 City of Perth General Purposes Committee Minutes, 1970-78, op. cit.

considered that this would not be available for the development until late in the financial year.⁴⁵

In the early 1970s, the layout of Delhi Square remained as per the 1916 Sewerage plan. Marion Blackwell, Landscape Architect/Ecologist, was approached by the city of Perth in 1972 to design the re-development of Delhi Square, to create the present Paradise Garden, with the possibility of incorporating, if feasible, some of the existing mature trees.⁴⁶ At the time, the paths were of concrete slabs, and there was a ring path around the central flowerbed that was planted with 'rather dilapidated and water stressed' Hebe plants.⁴⁷ The site, as per contour drawings, was fairly steeply sloped, somewhat steeper in the south-western corner, with a small hummocked elevation to the south of centre. The sandy soil was roughly grassed. Numerous mature trees had survived from the earlier period of development.⁴⁸

It had been proposed that the area in which Delhi Square was located would be developed as a three to five storey high rise business centre, and it was intended that the re-development of Delhi Square would provide a breathing space within it, 'an attractive area of greenery to assist in cleaning and cooling the air and act as a get away, passive recreation area for the employees of this busy and expanding centre.'⁴⁹

The brief to Landscape Architect Peter Cala and Ecologist/Landscape Architect Marion Blackwell, of Blackwell & Cala, was to re-develop Delhi Square as an exotic garden; nonetheless, the suggestion to include Pittosporums, Podocarpus, (a Gymnosperm), Callistemons (Bottlebrushes) and other suitable species was accepted, and they designed a garden in which approximately 10% were Australian Native species.⁵⁰ Initially it had been anticipated that the place would be entirely re-developed, which would have entailed the removal of the existing mature trees, mostly exotics, some of which are believed to date from the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth century. However, after much careful thought, the design was formulated around the existing trees so that all but one could be retained in situ. (Upon close inspection, a few were later rejected for health or other reasons). They were recognised as 'a great resource to start with, and were useful foundations for the layout of the shrubbery, which in conjunction with the landform, creates the spatial framework of the Park.'⁵¹ Plant species selected for the re-development were carefully selected with an awareness of the soil type and other climatic conditions, and the intention that the garden should be low cost and low maintenance. The park was designed to be a peaceful place, with green colours and textures featured rather than highly coloured annuals. The design can be described as an Australian interpretation of the Paradise Garden that is a garden form which has its origins in the tended walled gardens of Persia that excluded the wildness of nature. Use of water and free flowing plantings are common characteristics.⁵² Ground covers, chiefly in shades of green, were

45 *ibid.*

46 Marion Blackwell, letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241.

47 Blackwell & Associates 'Harold Boas Gardens, Review Report' for City of Perth, 2003, p. 1.

48 *ibid.*

49 *ibid.*

50 Correspondence from Peter Cala to Robin Chinnery, 22 September 2003, notes 'perhaps around 10% were Australian Native species.', whilst Marion Blackwell's recollection is that 'between one third and one half of the species were native.' Marion Blackwell, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 24 March 2003, and telephone conversation, 17 October 2003.

51 Peter Cala *ibid.*

52 Wikipedia entry for Paradise Gardens http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise_garden accessed February 2007.

intended 'to curve gracefully down from the taller backing shrubs to lawn - providing safety separation from tall plants and people places, as well as providing a sense of enclosed space.'⁵³ The design concept was that 'the layered structure of the planting design' would accentuate 'the flowing and enclosing spatial qualities of the landform', whilst the various species were selected 'to achieve simplicity, richness & seasonal awareness'⁵⁴, and to fulfil the intent to provide a low maintenance garden.⁵⁵

The layout of Delhi Square was substantially altered in the re-development. The pump house and toilet block were retained. The works implemented included considerable alterations to the landform as is evident in the contour drawings of the site as it existed and the development plans. The formal paths of the early lay out were removed. Hills, valleys and undulations were created, along with an artificial system of streams crossed by footbridges, lakes (the larger of which was altered somewhat on the western side from Blackwell's plan), a waterfall and a cascade, designed to fulfil the brief and to be of appropriate scale.⁵⁶ The latter elements were designed to mark transitions between the major spaces in the park and 'to create focal points of beauty.'⁵⁷ The previous even slope of the land was altered 'to form a valley character with a meandering watercourse as the principal element', and 'in consideration' of CBH's donation to the project, 'positioned and oriented the main waterfall so it could be seen' from the CBH building, which overlooked the park.⁵⁸ The design for the landform was specifically intended to ameliorate traffic noise from Wellington Street. To achieve this end, some portions of the site were lowered and the cascade was sited to create 'white noise', which would 'help mask traffic noise from adjacent areas in the Park.'⁵⁹ With the concurrence of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, rocks were obtained from the National Park at Kalamunda, from a site that had been disturbed during works by the State Energy Commission (SEC), at no cost other than transport, and the site from whence they came was tidied up and seeded with indigenous species, with the help of the Wildflower Society of WA under Marion Blackwell's direction.⁶⁰ Peter Cala was responsible for the selection of the rocks and their individual placement on the site for the waterfalls. In addition to the rocks from this SEC stockpile, around 40 tonnes of rocks were 'purchased from another source.'⁶¹

The re-development of Delhi Square was designed with dense vegetation down Wellington Street punctuated by slanting vistas opening the gardens to the lawns and pools beyond, whilst it was more open to Delhi Street for general access. Soil preparation was minimal, being only bare sand, compost and mulch. Extensive planting of new trees, shrubs and herbaceous species was undertaken as per the plans.⁶² Most plants for the project were supplied by Perth City Council's nursery.⁶³ A number were probably the first plantings in public gardens

53 Marion Blackwell, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 24 March 2003; and Blackwell & Associates op. cit., p. 2.; and Peter Cala *ibid*.

54 Information from Peter Cala & Associates to HCWA, 4 September 2003.

55 Marion Blackwell, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 17 October 2003.

56 Marion Blackwell, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 24 March 2003.

57 Information from Peter Cala & Associates to HCWA, 4 September 2003.

58 *ibid*; and correspondence from Peter Cala op. cit.

59 *ibid*.

60 Marion Blackwell, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 24 March 2003.

61 Correspondence from Peter Cala to Robin Chinnery, 22 September 2003.

62 Marion Blackwell, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 24 March 2003.

63 Peter Cala op. cit.

in Australia and/or Western Australia of their respective species, including:

- the South African Wisteria Tree (*Bolusanthus speciosa*), at that time only recently discovered and probably not previously planted in Australian Parks. This was obtained through Blackwell's membership of the Kirkenboch Botanic Gardens, in Cape Town, South Africa, and grown in Perth by Brian Honey at Hoop's Nursery;
- Pride of Bolivia, Tipu Tree (*Tipuana tipu*), a fast growing deciduous tree originating in South America. Seeds for this tree were sent to Marion Blackwell at the University of Technology NSW in the early 1950's when she was carrying out experimental work on Leguminous plants. This species was chosen as the co-dominant tree; because of its foliage colour, which acted as a bridge between exotic and native species. so helping to coordinate the plantings;
- Australia Teak (*Flindersia australis*), grown from seed personally collected by Blackwell from the arid area of South Australia;
- Western Australia's Desert Kurrajong (*Brachychiton gregorii*), propagated using seed from north of Leonora;
- Cigar Cassia (*Cassia Brewsteri*), with seed collected by Blackwell in southeast Queensland;
- Tall Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos flavidus hybrids*), crossed by Keith Oliver and grown specifically for the project by George Lullfitz; and,
- 5 forms of Snakebush (*Hemiandra pungens*), grown from cuttings collected by Blackwell, and propagated by Ray Aitkin at the "Wildflower Nursery".⁶⁴

For all the forms of these last two, their growth for *Harold Boas Gardens* was the first time they had been propagated. The beautiful pink belled, and at that time un-named hybrid *Brachychiton*, chosen as the co-dominant tree for the park, arose spontaneously at the West Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) Institute in Adelaide. Cutting material for the propagation of 100 of these trees was imported from South Australia, and the grafting of this material onto a designated stock, suitable for growing in the sandy soil of Delhi Square was undertaken by George Lullfitz. This was quite an exacting horticultural task, and was completely successful. This plant has now been given the officially botanical name of *Brachychiton x roseus nothosubsp. roseus* by G P Guymer, Director of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. At the same time, Guymer named two of the other previously un-named ornamental hybrid *Brachychitons* which were also used in this design, namely *Brachychiton x viniolor* and *Brachychiton x incanatus*.⁶⁵

Other plants designated for planting, that were new or relatively new to Western Australian horticulture were:

- The Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*)
- The Black Bean or Morton Bay Chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*)
- Smooth-barked Kauri (*Agathis robusta*)
- Khat (*Catha edulis*)
- African red alder (*Cunonia capensis*)
- Cabbage Tree (*Cussonia spicata*)

⁶⁴ Marion Blackwell, letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241

⁶⁵ Marion Blackwell, letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241

- Puka, Pukanui (*Meryta sinclairii*)
- Ochrosia (*Ochrosia elliptica*, now named *Neisosperma elliptica*)
- Five Finger (*Pseudopanax lessonii*)
- Kowhai (*Sophora tetraptera*)
- Pony Tail Plant (*Nolina recurvata*)
- Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)
- Gynea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*)
- *Coprosma prostrata* and *Coprosma kirkii* 'Vatiegata'
- *Brechcorneria yuccoiedes*
- Tasman Flax-Lily (*Dianella tasmanica*)
- The Macaranga seed (*Macaranga tanarius*)

A number of the native shrubs and ground cover plants were propagated by George Lullfitz specifically for this project, from seed or cuttings collected by Marion Blackwell in various regions of Australia. Also notable among the plantings at the place were Plum yew (*Podocarpus andinus*), Plum pine (*Podocarpus elatus*), *Pavetta caffrum*, *capensis*, a floriferous shrub with nitrogen nodules on its leaves, *Pittosporum phylliraeoides var microcarpa*, Mock orange, (*Pittosporum tobira*), and Puriri (*Vitex lucernus*), Whilst some of the above species later came into wider use, others still remain uncommon. The resultant garden is in the Paradise style.⁶⁶

The tree conservation plan, the concept design and proposed contour plan with perspective depictions were presented to the City of Perth, in February 1974.⁶⁷ In July 1974, *The Daily News* reported that Perth City Council was to proceed with re-development of Delhi Square whereby 'the static, traditionally English park idea will be replaced by a more casual natural layout', including 'more trees, a waterfall feature and a chain of lakes' at a cost of \$45,883, including the \$5,000 donation from Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, with a plaque to be erected at the place to commemorate the company's founders.⁶⁸

In August 1974, detailed planting plans for the proposed re-development of Delhi Square were presented to the City of Perth, showing the contours, lakes, waterfall and cascade, footbridges, and buildings existing trees, and proposed plantings.⁶⁹ Peter Cala was responsible for the design work, Marion Blackwell provided 'a wealth of information and guidance on suitable plant species', and Les Norman was responsible for the perspective drawings.⁷⁰ This was among Peter Cala's early designs for a park. Subsequently, he designed many other parks 'which have a similar, recognisable style'.⁷¹

In September 1974, as plans for the re-development of Delhi Square neared completion, it was anticipated that work would commence later that year. At this time, the place was used at lunch-time by a few workers in the area, and it was hoped that the up-grading would attract greater numbers of people, in particular families. The re-development was part of Perth City Council's policy 'to give the

⁶⁶ Marion Blackwell, letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241

⁶⁷ Marion Blackwell, letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241

⁶⁸ *The Daily News* 15 and 16 July 1974 p. p. 7 and p. 10 respectively.

⁶⁹ Delhi Square City Park Redevelopment for the Perth City Council, August 1974

⁷⁰ Correspondence from Peter Cala to Robin Chinnery op. cit.

⁷¹ *ibid*; and Peter Cala telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 18 September 2003.

city's older parks a new lease of life', with an emphasis on more trees 'to make the parks refuges from the pressures of the city environment.'⁷²

In July 1975, it was reported that a system of ornamental lakes and a waterfall were to be 'installed' at Delhi Square as part of its up-grade by Perth City Council.⁷³ Peter Cala had proposed that 'for water quality reasons' the lakes should be deeper than those which were built; however, Perth City Council required that they were shallow 'in consideration of public safety.'⁷⁴

In January 1976, it was reported that *Harold Boas Gardens*, 'formerly known as Delhi Square' would open to the public towards the end of the year, providing 'A new haven for the footsore and the weary - or for those who just want to enjoy their lunch-hour away from the madding crowd'.⁷⁵ The place was re-named in commemoration of the service of former Perth City Councillor, Harold Boas (b. Adelaide, 1883) a leading Perth architect, who resided at Mount Street, Perth.⁷⁶ He had arrived in Western Australia from South Australia in 1905. He played an important role in the development of town planning in Perth, was a prime mover in the promulgation of Western Australia's Town Planning Act (1928), the first in Australia, served as Chairman of the Town Planning Committee (1935-42), and was instrumental in the city's acquisition of land for future parks and gardens. Boas, together with influential Perth Town Clerk W.E. Bold, arranged the 1914 visit to Perth of Charles C. Reade, a British expert in the planning of garden cities. In the subsequent years both Bold and Boas travelled internationally to attend conferences on the importance of open spaces in modern city planning, and to witness places where these philosophies were being put into practice, and their experiences significantly influenced their planning for the shape of Perth.⁷⁷ Boas was part of a movement across Australia in the first half of the twentieth century that saw the provision of public open space as an essential priority in town planning. He was part of a group of Perth planners who were responsible for the provision of open space in metropolitan subdivisions such as Redcliff, Menora, Coolbinia, Floreat Park, City Beach, Monger's Lake, Victoria Park, 'Westminster Garden City' and 'Sorrento Seaside Estates'.⁷⁸

Harold Boas invited Peter Cala to his home to discuss the layout of the place, and later wrote that he was 'entranced by the Scheme' for the Gardens.⁷⁹

By early 1976, the re-development had cost approximately \$75,000. It was proposed that a 'spectacular' lighting system be installed 'to highlight the flora.'⁸⁰ However, due to financial constraints, neither the lighting nor an intended suite of designed and coordinated landscape elements were implemented.⁸¹ On 17 September 1976, the setting aside of Perth Town Lot V157 as Reserve 1161 for

72 *The West Australian* 13 September 1974, p. 21.

73 *The West Australian* 3 July 1975, p. 4.

74 Peter Cala op. cit.

75 *Living Today* 29 January 1976, p. 35.

76 *ibid.*

77 Stannage, C. T. op. cit., p. 232 and p. 298-300; Batty, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (The Cyclopaedia Company, Perth, 1912-13) Vol. 1, p. 633; and 'Perth towards 2000' in *City News* March 1998.

78 Robert Freestone & David Nichols, 'A "Particularly Happy" arrangement?: Idealism, Pragmatism and the Enclosed Open Spaces of Perth Garden Suburbs' in *Limina*, vol. 7, 2001, pp.65-81.

79 Harold Boas to Peter Cala, 5 February 1976. Courtesy Peter Cala.

80 *Living Today* op. cit.

81 Marion Blackwell conversation with Robin Chinnery, 24 March 2003 and letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241

the purpose of recreation was gazetted.⁸² On 8 December 1976, a commemorative plaque mounted on a large boulder by the waterfall was unveiled by the Hon. H. W. Gayfer, MLC, Chairman of Directors of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited.⁸³

In the late 1970s, to provide a hard surface for the area in proximity to the waterfall where there was a high amount of traffic, a cobbled area was laid. In the 1990s, the southern portion of this was replaced with pavers, and the area extended. Neither was part of Blackwell's design, and nor was play equipment installed at the north side of the place.⁸⁴

Through the late twentieth century, *Harold Boas Gardens* has continued to mature. As it has developed, the lush Paradise style garden has been well used by local workers, nearby residents, and other visitors, becoming a favourite place for weddings (more than 300 per annum), and photographs.⁸⁵ The place has also been used as a teaching site for students of Horticulture at Challenger TAFE (Murdoch), to teach plant identification, garden design, landscaping, change in use, bedding out, maintenance and management, and those enrolled in applied plant materials units within Landscape Architecture studies at the University of Western Australia.⁸⁶

In 1992, the place was included in the Survey of Historical Sites in the Central Area of Perth.⁸⁷ On 30 July 1993, the setting apart of Perth Lot 1019 on Land Administration Plan 17920, 579 square metres in area and formerly a portion of the northern extension of Havelock Street from Wellington Street, as Reserve 42786 for the purpose of "Public Utilities Services and Access", vested in the City of Perth was gazetted, and a Crown Land Record was registered accordingly on 3 August 1993.⁸⁸

In 2001, the place was entered into the Municipal Heritage Inventory for the City of Perth. The place was considered to be of 'exceptional significance', its conservation 'essential to the conservation of the heritage of the City', and it was recommended for Entry into the State Register of Heritage Places.⁸⁹

On 22 August 2002, a Digital Certificate of Title for the place was issued.⁹⁰

Through the period 1996-2003, required replacement planting has been on the basis of like-for-like where possible, but in some instances plants of the same species have been unavailable. On other occasions, plantings at *Harold Boas Gardens* have been part of a wider pattern of plantings in the City of Perth, dependent on availability, current policy and/or moves towards standardization of plantings. Examples are the introduction of colourful annuals, contrary to the original design intent (as noted by Marion Blackwell), although this has been reduced somewhat in the past 2-3 years due to water restrictions, and the most

82 *Government Gazette* 17 September 1976, p. 3450.

83 Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 10 April 2003.

84 Eric Franco and Allan Dolphin, City of Perth, conversation with Robin Chinnery, site visit, 10 April 2003; and Marion Blackwell op. cit.

85 *The West Australian* 18 March 1994; 'Perth towards 2000' op. cit.; and Blackwell & Associates op. cit., p. 6.

86 Eric Franco, conversation with Robin Chinnery at site visit; Tinka Starke (UWA) and Carmel Smith and John Viska (Murdoch TAFE), conversations with HCWA staff, July & August 2003.

87 City of Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory Vol. 2, p. 2283.

88 *Government Gazette* 30 July 1973; and Crown Land Record Vol. 3051 Fol. 960.

89 City of Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory Vol. 2, p. 2283.

90 Record of Qualified Certificate of Title of Crown Land Vol. LR3051 Fol. 960.

recent plantings by the cascade. A small number of trees have had to be removed when diseased or damaged. Borders have altered as the canopy has grown. There have been problems with wear and tear in high traffic areas and with erosion, as in the southern area by the lake, which are addressed as best possible by the staff within the available budget; for example, reconstruction of portions of planted area surrounding the waterfall utilising rocks already on site, and pine logs to hold embankments. Nearby works that have disturbed the ground have adversely affected the root systems of some trees. Beautifying highly visible road areas, often with labour intensive planting of annuals, has resulted in less time available in the parks and gardens which have suffered accordingly. Seating has been replaced and/or installed on an ad hoc basis.⁹¹

In 2003, the City of Perth commissioned a Review Report of *Harold Boas Gardens* by Blackwell & Associates, which concluded that 'the fabric of the park had stood the test of time remarkably well' considering the length of time since construction and the amount of usage without any major review or up-grades having been undertaken, and that where adverse effects were evident, they were 'more to do with the hard landscape elements', for example the footbridges.⁹² The spontaneous regeneration of some species was noted and the problems inherent therein, with attention drawn also to the need for review of shrub and ground covers plantings, recommending renewal where necessary, in particular with regard to the latter which had veered away from the design intent. The planting around the waterfall area, which was formerly 'a pinnacle of riparian growth', had 'lost its appeal, diversity and texture, and thus its attraction, as well as its sense of enclosure and separation from its surrounds', having been severely cut back recently. This area was considered to be in need of a complete re-design.⁹³ A recent aerial photograph (January 2003) shows the development of the place has followed quite closely that anticipated in the original plans and perspectives, the trees having matured and fulfilled the design intent 'providing cool and green overarched spaces.'⁹⁴

In autumn 2003, the place continued to be used as passive recreation gardens, with around 80% of visitors being local residents and business people. It is anticipated that the new developments in progress in West Perth, in particular those in close proximity to the place, will impact on future usage. A new irrigation system was installed in 2003. The pump house is currently used for storage, and the garden shed continues in use, with a proposal in hand to extend it.⁹⁵

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Harold Boas Gardens is a designed Paradise Garden style park with a sculpted landform and comprising retained early tree plantings (c. 1898-1900), a pump house (1956), toilet block, lakes and waterfall with footbridges, plantings of trees, shrubs and ground covers (1975-76). The original park on the site, named Delhi Square, was laid out and developed for the City of Perth in c. 1898-1901, by the City Gardener, John Braithwaite, as a traditional Victorian garden with a centre flower bed, tree plantings, and radial paths. The re-development of Delhi Square to create the present garden in the Paradise Garden style, incorporating the

91 Eric Franco and Allan Dolphin op. cit.; and Marion Blackwell op cit.

92 Blackwell & Associates op. cit., p. 2 and p. 4. As at September 2004, the report does not have any formal status with the City of Perth and none of its recommendations have been adopted.

93 ibid, p. 2.

94 ibid, Appendix.

95 Eric Franco and Allan Dolphin op. cit.

existing mature trees, was carried out by Landscape Architect Peter Cala and Ecologist/Landscape Architect Marion Blackwell, of Blackwell & Cala, for the City of Perth in 1975-76, when the place was re-named *Harold Boas Gardens*.

Harold Boas Gardens is located in West Perth, south of the Perth to Fremantle railway line and is bounded by Wellington Street, a key city arterial road, Colin and Delhi Streets and a footpath that separates the park from an adjoining residential development.

Havelock Street once extended along the eastern side of the square, but following the removal of the Metropolitan Markets, the street was re-aligned so that the new housing development now abuts the gardens. The Wellington Street environment comprises a two-way pair road and commercial development, with some residential development converted to commercial uses. Colin Street is a busy local road and has a low scale character comprising converted residences and purpose built offices. Delhi Street, once a residential street, is now lined entirely with medium rise offices, including the notable CBH building, designed by Summerhayes and Associates in 1969. The eastern side of the gardens is visually contained by residential development that was erected from the mid 1990s, elements of which are still being developed.

Harold Boas Gardens is an Australian interpretation of the principles of the Paradise Garden style, using richness of form, texture and colour through the use of tropical and subtropical plants. Plantings are clumped in natural looking groups and water is used to simulate natural forms.

Harold Boas Gardens makes use of its natural fall from west to east and the gardens are designed to cascade down the incline. The gardens are designed to give a series of visual and spatial experiences, both in plan and in their spatial and sensual effects. The ground is contoured and sculpted to provide naturalistic hillocks, depressions and plateaux in which to locate water bodies.

The gardens are planned around a number of key internal designed landscape features and a variety of spatial experiences. The edges of the gardens along street frontages are densely planted to provide a lush green screen to separate the park interior from the activity of the surrounding streets. The park can be entered from a number of points around the perimeter, with no two entries being alike. Plant screening along the busiest streets, Wellington and Colin streets, provides the strongest visual barrier separating the gardens from their built environment. There are no entries from Colin Street, and the entries from Wellington Street tend to be narrow and oblique, so that only glimpses are gained of the garden's interior. Entries from the quieter Delhi Street are more frequent in number and reveal more of the gardens from its edge. Each arrival point is a different spatial experience, with wide entries from the north and narrow and oblique entries from the south side of the gardens.

The land is sculpted to create a varied terrain. There are multiple visual focus points include expanses of lawn, informally planned perimeter and island planting beds, a pond at the northern end of the gardens, a rock construction waterfall at the eastern end of the top pond, then a flat water course further east, a cascade set close to the Wellington Street boundary, and finally a terminating pond. The water features are also informally planned and their construction is rustic. Devices such as paved areas of granite construction and steps and timber bridges encourage movement alongside and over the water features.

The spatial experiences include short and long vistas, vistas revealed through movement through the environment, and varying senses of being in open

landscaped space and enclosed and shady space.

The overall sense is that of being in a lush Paradise Style garden, with expanses of well-kept grass, water, the sound of the waterfall, and dense green planting. Inside the garden, there are only occasional visual glimpses of the outside world.

The structure of the gardens varies from location to locations. A number of existing tree plantings have been retained, including:

- Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*)
- Figs (*Ficus spp.*)
- Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
- Cotton Palms (*Washingtonia filifera*)
- Coral Tree (*Erythrina sykesii*, then called *Erythrina hybrida*),
- Jacarandah (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)
- Queensland Boxes (*Lophostemon conferta*)
- Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria pattersonii*)
- Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Cape Lilac or White Cedar (*Melia azedorach*) and,
- Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*), some of which probably date from the period 1898-1905.

The new tree planting made extensive use of species and hybrid:

- Kurrajongs
- Pride of Bolivia (*Tipuana tipu*)
- Native Frangipanis (*Hymenosporum flavum*)
- Plum Pine (*Podocarpus elatus*)
- Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*)
- Hill's Weeping Fig (*Ficus hillii*)
- Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*)
- Black Bean, or Morton Bay Chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*)
- Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capence*)
- Puriri (*Vitex lucens*)
- Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)
- Crow's Ash (*Flindersia australis*)
- *Macaranga tenaris*
- South African Wisteria (*Bolusanthes speciosa*)
- Dwarf Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Cock's Comb Coral Tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*)
- Puka Pukanui (*Meryta sinclairii*)
- Sophora Fruit (*Sophora japonic*), and
- South African Tulip Tree (*Spathodia campanulate*).

The only shrub in the original plantings in Delhi Square consisted just of a ring of Hebe plants in the central circular bed at the meeting of the diagonal paths. The 1975 planting of shrubs and small trees plantings included:

- Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpus tuberculatus*)
- Orange Jessamine (*Murraya exotica*)
- Smoke Bush (*Cotinus coggygria*)
- Purple Smoke Bush (*Cotinus coggygria* 'Purpurea')
- Weeping Pittosporums (*Pittosporum phylliraeoides*)
- Red Bauhinia (*Bauhinia punctata*)
- Butterspoon Tree (*Cunonia capensis*)
- Tree Ferns (*Cyathea cooperi*)
- Dracaena (*Dracaena spp*)

- Bottlebrush (*Callistemon spp.*)
- Japanese Sago Palm (*Cycas revolute*)
- Sasanqua Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*)
- Judas Tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*)
- Diamond pittosporum (*Pittosporum rhombifolium*)
- *Nothopanax arborescens*
- Five Finger (*Pseudopanax lessonii*)
- Wild Rosemary (*Eriocephalus africanus*)
- Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)
- *Asparagus myriocladus*
- Dusty Miller (*Chrysanthemum ptarmicaiflorum*)
- *Wigandia kunthii*
- Gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*)
- Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia alba*)
- Khat (*Catha edulis*)
- Cabbage Tree (*Cussonia spicata*)
- Dwarf Fan Palm (*Sabal minor*)
- Gymaea Lilly (*Doryanthes excelsior*)
- Orchrosia (*Ochrosia elliptica*)
- Fatsia (*Fatsia japonica*), and
- Cape Pavetta (*Pavetta capensis*).

In 2004, shrubs and small tree plantings include Magnolias (*Magnolia spp.*), Tree Ferns (*Cyathea cooperi*), Hibiscus (*Hibiscuss spp.*), Cassia (*Cassi spp.*), Coprosma, Dracaena, Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leuxcoxlyon*), Bottlebrush (*Callistemon spp.*), Red Alder (*Alnus spp.*), Japanese Sago Palm (*Cycas revolute*), Camellias, Judas Tree (*Cercis app.*), Pittosporum, and Cape Pavetta (*Pavetta capensis*).

There was no planting of ground covers in the original park. 1975 ground cover plantings included:

- Agapanthus (*Agapantus africanus*)
- 5 varieties of Snakebush (*Hemiandra pungens*)
- *Veronica phlebia*
- Mexican Lily (*Breschorneria yuccoiedes*)
- Ivy (*Hedera var.*)
- Vinca (*Vinca minor*)
- Myoporum (*Myoporum parvifolium*)
- Dragon Flower (*Dracuncula vulgaris*)
- *Coprosma repens* and *Coprosma kirkii* 'Variegata'
- Vars.

In 2004, bed plantings included:

- Agapanthus (*Agapantus africanus*)
- Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus myriopcladus*)
- Coprosma
- Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum ptarmicaeflorum*)
- Gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*)
- Ivy (*Hedera var.*)
- Vinca (*Vinca minor*)
- Fishbone Fern *Nephrolepis cordifolia*)
- Strelitzia (*Strelitsia alba*)

- Dwarf Fan Palm (*Sabal minor*)
- Doryanthes (*Doryanthes excelsia*)
- Fatsia (*Fatsia japonica*)
- Myoporum (*Myoporum parvifolium*), and
- Meryta (*Meryta sinclarii*).

The lakes or ponds are lined with bitumen impregnated fibre glass (a technique since superseded by PVC liners), the sides are concreted, and there are structural concrete foundations to the waterfalls and cascades.⁹⁶ The waterfall and cascade constructed in random coursed quarry faced granite to give a naturalistic appearance. Water is circulated from the bottom pond back up to the top pond and delivered into the system via bubblers.

Built features include three sets of stone construction steps along the south side of the gardens. The steps are constructed in random coursed granite and have no handrails or strings. There are two timber construction bridges across the water courses at the midlevel pond and then at the lowest level pond near the cascade.

Street furniture includes several original concrete construction cantilevered benches, later aluminium construction bench seats, and some very recently installed teak bench seats set on concrete pads. The original benches were not in the Blackwell & Cala design. They were erected as interim replacements for the custom designed hard landscape elements that were originally proposed, but not proceeded with due to lack of funds.⁹⁷ There are pole mounted lights with spherical polycarbonate shades, but night lighting is not effective. Shades are extensively bore water stained. Finally, there is a collection of refuse containers.

Generally, the gardens give an appearance of being in good condition. However, on close examination, the lawns are in fair to good condition, there are a number of trees in poor condition and some are dying. Many of the garden beds appear richly planted from a mid distance, but a close examination reveals that the *Coprosma repens*, Indian Hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*) and *Royena lucida* has taken over large parts of the beds where it was intended that there be a range of species. In places the remedy to this exuberant growth has been to prune the shrubs into topiary style forms- such an aesthetic is clearly at odds with the naturalistic approach to the design intent. Replacement planting is undertaken by the City of Perth and staff endeavour to replant in accordance with the Blackwell & Cala plans of 1974. In parts, it is also obvious that the replanting has attempted to incorporate temporarily favoured coloured floral elements such as the *Dimorphotheca spp.* The intermittent use of such species along with other bedding plants is clearly not part of the original planting style, which generally consists of sweeping beds of limited species, with feature plants highlighted by such a background. Replanting is frustrated by the vigorous growth of the *Coprosma* and the difficulty in obtaining some of the original plant material. Cabling work along the verge of Delhi Street has damaged some of the trees in the vicinity and the tops of a number of eucalypts appear to be dying out. Many of the kurrajongs, particularly the groups of *Brachychiton gregorii*, have developed lopsided canopies due to the density of adjacent planting.

The lack of a mowing edge strip at the interface of the planting and lawns, though part of the original design intent, presents a maintenance problem and grass is clearly growing within the shrub beds.

⁹⁶ Peter Cala op. cit.

⁹⁷ Marion Blackwell letter to Philip Griffiths, 12 February 2004, on HCWA file P4241

The plantings, as well as all hard landscape elements, are extensively stained with bore water. Indeed this has the effect of providing a unifying visual link between elements and has no doubt assisted in the appearance of age and consolidation to features such as the stonework and waterfalls. In other areas such staining is unsightly, such as the lights, buildings, and signage, and for some of the vegetation, it is suffocating, as it blocks the stomata.

There are three brick and tile construction structures. All three are of a utilitarian design and pre-date the present planned landscape. They comprise a former pump house near Delhi Street that is now used for storage, a works shed, which has expanded into a framed and shade cloth covered work area in the north east corner of the gardens, where Delhi and Havelock streets used to intersect, and finally a small male and female toilet block set close to what used to be the Havelock Street road alignment. All buildings are bore water stained and in fair condition.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

From the late 1870s, the City of Perth was responsible for the development of a number of parks, gardens and recreation grounds, including the Recreation Ground established on reclaimed land between William Street and Barrack Street jetties, Victoria Park and the former Mulberry Plantation in East Perth. The period 1898-1900, in the wake of the Western Australian gold boom, has been described as 'The Golden Age of Parks' in Perth in which most of the early parks and gardens under the responsibility of the City of Perth were laid out and developed. These included Hyde Park, Queen's Gardens, present day Florence Hummerston Reserve, Wellington, Russell and Weld squares, and *Harold Boas Gardens*. Developed as Delhi Square from 1897-98, it was laid out in similar style to Russell Square. Through the next 70 years, there was little change to the basic form of the squares and some of the earlier plantings at each place survived.

In the 1970s, the re-development of Delhi Square as *Harold Boas Gardens* created a garden in the Paradise style. The other most notable gardens in Perth which display qualities of this style are Queen's Gardens, which is significant 'in displaying aesthetic qualities of the Picturesque style of landscape design and in particular, the Western Australian Paradise/Oasis style which is derived from it', and that at the University of Western Australia, which was designed and laid out in the inter-war period. *Harold Boas Gardens* was designed by Blackwell & Cala to be partially open to the surrounding area at ground level from Delhi Street and portions of Havelock Street, with two open entries also along Wellington Street, whilst Queen's Gardens remains an enclosed garden.

Wellington and Weld squares retained their flat open character, with scattered mature trees and exposed grassed areas, into the late twentieth century, when the latter underwent substantial change as part of the works associated with the City Northern Bypass. Russell Square was up-graded in the late twentieth century, retaining its layout in the High Victorian style, with rectilinear paths and the central rotunda.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Blackwell & Associates 'Harold Boas Gardens, Review Report' for City of Perth, 2003

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research in Lands and Surveys and City of Perth Records may reveal more information about the early history of the place, including details of the arrangements whereby the place was developed and managed by the City of Perth in the period 1898-1901, prior to the Crown Grant to the City, and about the extant buildings.