

SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Dardanelles Memorial Gardens
Any other or former name(s):	Dardanelles Memorial Wattle Grove
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No

2. Location					
Street Address:	Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West), Adelaide Park Lands - Western side of Lewis Cohen Drive				
	Suburb / Town: Adelaide		Post Code: 5000		
Local Council Name:	Adelaide City Council				
Land Description: (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X 138.594244			Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =) -34.936955,	

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	Adelaide City Council
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	
Postal Address:	Street Address:
	Suburb / Town: Post Code:
Phone Number:	
Ownership History:	

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	<div></div> <div></div>
Organisation/Position:	<div></div>
Daytime Phone:	<div></div>
Postal Address:	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
Email Address:	<div></div>

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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	<p>(<i>Callitris columnaris</i>) specimens</p> <p>Five mature specimens located on the site of the original 'Wattle Grove' memorial plantation established in 1915. These five trees were a central feature of the highly symbolic design for the war memorial garden designed by master builder, Walter Torode, and established by the Wattle Day League.</p> <p>The site also includes remnant plantings of the original wattle grove established in 1915 including specimens of Golden Wattle (<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>) and Golden Wreath Wattle (<i>Acacia saligna</i>).</p> <p>The site has strong social significance and military connections - with Vice Regal associations and endorsement of the site and its meaning.</p>
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	The stone monument which formed a centre piece to the gardens was moved in 1940 by the Adelaide City Council
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	Yes – there is almost certainly archaeological evidence of the original formal garden and path design
Date you inspected the place or object:	2016 - 2021 + ongoing
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	N/a – owned by the people of Adelaide
Current use of the place or object:	Wattle Grove Memorial Garden / park lands
Original or former use(s):	Park lands
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease • Park lands “development” • Vandalism • Removal of the original Cyprus trees on the basis that they are exotics in any endeavour to return the area to a native or pre-white settlement state
Name of Builder:	Walter Torode

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C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1915 Finish: 1915
Name of Designer / Architect:	Walter Torode (1858-1937), master builder, Adelaide
History of the nominated place or object:	<p>On 23 August 1915, the Wattle Day League proposed a sacred grove of wattle trees to commemorate the landing of Australian troops at Gallipoli. The designer was well known Adelaide builder, Walter C Torode. Torode also designed a granite obelisk positioned in the middle of garden with rough surfaces representing the cliffs and hills of the Dardanelles and inscribed: "Australasian soldiers, Dardanelles, April 25th 1915" - and included a circle of five upright trees (Cyprus pines) as emblems of the Allies.</p> <p>The opening ceremony was officiated by the Governor General Sir Ronald and Lady Munro Ferguson, and the South Australian Governor, Sir Henry and Lady Galway. Also present were the Hon Premier, and the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Adelaide. 140 wattle trees (<i>Acacia</i> spp) were planted at the site using trees supplied by the Botanic Gardens director, John Frederick Bailey.</p> <p>In 1916 another 44 trees and additional roses were planted. The Governor and Lady Galway participated again in further tree plantings on 1 September 1917</p> <p>In 1919 another significant wattle tree was planted after being dropped from an aircraft to commemorate the role of Australian aviators during World War I. A bronze tablet was placed at the spot.</p> <p>In 1921 an additional 102 wattle (<i>Acacia</i> spp) trees were planted In the following year some 150 wattle (<i>Acacia</i> spp) trees, of some 10 species, were additionally planted. and a line of "84 Pagoda Trees" (<i>Sophora japonica</i>) were planted linking the 'Grove' to Greenhill Road alongside paralleling Lewis Cohen Drive. A further 152 wattles were planted in 1923, and another 105 in 1924, 45 in 1925 and 20 in 1926.</p> <p>The last memorial planting ceremony was in 1927. By then the Wattle Grove was full.</p> <p>In October 1940, the Corporation moved the monument from the Memorial Garden to nearby Lundie Garden.</p> <p>The five trees, <i>Callitris columnaris</i>, are in reasonable health but aging and will increasingly need special attention to ensure their longevity and protection.</p>

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Historical sources used to support your nomination: Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	<p>The Register, 17 August 1915</p> <p><i>It is proposed to fence in an area of about 150ft. square [13.92m], with entrances from four sides ... In the centre will be a small obelisk of red-and-grey granite, with the simple inscription "Dardanelles, 25/4/15." Around and above this will be a rustic pavilion, 25ft. [7.6m] in diameter ... to have wide openings on four sides. Beyond this an outer circle, with a radius of 33ft. [10m] from the centre will provide space for future gatherings. In this area five trees will be planted as emblems of the Allies. The outer area will be a circle of 66ft. [20.12m] radius, making four quadrants, in which will be planted 72 wattle trees of assorted variety, with a wide pathway on the outer circle of wattles [Acacia ssp] ... The main entrance to the park will be through a rustic pergola, over which will be the letters "Wattle Grove, 1915"</i></p>
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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

It is of State heritage significance because :

Social Context:

The memorial gardens were conceived as a patriotic gesture - timed to coincide with annual Wattle Day in 1915. Funding was through public subscription by the women of the Wattle Day League with support of local artisans and business, and was inspired by the families of those troops actively serving from South Australia. There were two wholly South Australian battalions engaged in the campaign – the 10th (Adelaide) Btn, (built on the foundation of the “Adelaide Rifles” 78th Infantry) which was withdrawn in September, and the 27th (Unley) Btn (built on the foundation of the 74th Infantry) which remained on the Gallipoli Peninsular until the final withdrawal. The memorial’s location is therefore highly significant in that the site gave ready access to mothers and families of the soldiers from both the City of Unley and the City of Adelaide.

Military Context:

What we now call Park 21 was regularly used for training and military parades from as early as 1885. Artillery training also regularly occurred on the site, and the rifle range was just to the east of the site, where Veale Gardens now stand. The memorial struck a strong and symbolic link between the military training undertaken by those South Australians who went to War, and the formal memory of their achievements and sacrifice. Other close connections to WWI are the adjacent AIF Memorial Cemetery, the WWI hospital now part of Keswick Barracks, and of course, ANZAC highway, down the centre of which trees, representing fallen soldiers, were planted by schoolchildren.

The site in Park 21 was used for remembrance. For many years, ceremonies were held at the monument and plantings conducted to honour VC winners (including Sgt Inwood, a CoA employee) - as well as the women of the ambulance corps, amongst others. It also provided a focal point for the families (now grandchildren) of soldiers from Adelaide and Unley to reflect and remember.

Symbolism

The memorial gardens and its monument were designed by Walter Torode to symbolise Gallipoli. The monument had on it a cross made from beach pebbles from Gallipoli. The garden structure was very significant. In laying out the ground, posts at the front were 4ft apart: there were 4 quadrats and 4 pathways, each representing the 4th month, April, and in each quadrant there were 25 wattle trees representing the 25th of the month. In the footpath there were 6 spaces for trees representing the Australian States. The orientation was to greet the morning sun.

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8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

<input type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.	<p>The wattle memorial gardens is the first national memorial to the Gallipoli campaign.</p> <p>"this initiative had caused Adelaide to be the first city in the Commonwealth to erect a memorial to the landing of the troops on Gallipoli." ¹</p> <p>"Wattle Day : The Governor-General" in <i>The Register</i>, Adelaide, 8 September 1915, p.11.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.	<p>The 5 remnant Cyprus Pines are vulnerable to disease, competitive development and the ongoing alienation of the Park Lands.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.	<p>The cult of commemoration was strong in South Australia. The memorial enabled public mass mourning and rituals to address mass grief of war. As the first national memorial to Australia and New Zealand's engagement in WW1 the site has a high sociological importance and it is essential that the tangible site remnants be retained.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	<p>This is believed to be the site of the very first memorial to Australia and New Zealand's commitment to WW1. The 5 Cyprus pines are a direct link to that significant commemorative occasion and mass morning for the dead and injured.</p> <p>The obelisk, which formed part of the memorial, has been relocated twice and modified, with the original cross replaced - and as such has lost much of the integrity and original context it derived from its place in the memorial gardens, its architects, community and vice regal endorsement.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates a high degree of	<p>The original garden design was highly creative and symbolic</p>

¹ Similar sentiments were expressed by the Lord Mayor – see Inglis, K.S., *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape* 2001 (Melb. Uni Press, Melb.) pp. 78-9. It is clear that by 'memorial', Munro Ferguson meant "physical memorial". Minor memorials such as honour boards and, of course, press notices, may have preceded it.

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<p>creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.</p>	<p>– and different from other linear memorials. The original architect's plans coupled with archaeological descriptions offer good potential to reinstate part of the original site configuration to complement the remnant 5 Cyprus pines.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.</p>	<p>The notion of sacred groves has a long history in Western and other cultures. The architects of the Wattle Grove created a site for sacred meditation and contemplation for those family engaged in war and for those who died. Like all memorials, it has a spiritual role.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.</p>	<p>The Wattle Grove and the original surrounds have an association with WW1 and the Wattle Day League. In particular it has a strong association with prominent Adelaide architect and builder Walter Torode. The contribution of Walter Torode to South Australia is well represented in the South Australian Heritage Register.</p> <p>It also has strong vice-regal connections as well as the Premier of South Australia.</p> <p>As the very first Dardanelles memorial, it also has a strong connection to New Zealand and the troops who served alongside Australians even before the term ANZAC was conceived.</p>

E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

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"Plan of Wattle-Grove" drawn by A. W. Pelzer, City Gardener, Adelaide City Council c.13 August 1920 (as per Town Clerk's request 10 Aug 1920). Gallipoli Wattle Grove, Cohen-avenue [now Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue]
CORPORATION OF ADELAIDE TOWN CLERK DOCKET 1917/2419

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Unveiling Gallipoli obelisk by Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, Governor-General of Australia [PRG 280/1/9/18]



Women at a Wattle Day event SLA PRG 280/1/38/64

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Extract of a 'Plan of the City of Adelaide' prepared by the City Engineer and dated 1935



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We, [REDACTED] nominate the Wattle Grove Memorial Cyprus Pines (*callitris columnaris*) Park 21 West Adelaide Parklands to be heritage listed.

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your Signature/s:



Date: