



**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)

- 3 Developing local, regional and national economies
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 3.11 Altering the environment
- 3.11.3 Irrigating land
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 8.1.4 Enjoying a natural environment
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 302 Rural industry and market gardening
- 409 Environmental awareness

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The large area of bushland, the tributary of Crumpet Creek and the nursery remnants at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape of Kalamunda and the Darling Scarp. (Criterion 1.3)

Set off by the backdrop of the mature stands of endemic eucalypts, the remnant orchard plants, exotic trees and shrubs at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* accentuate the seasons through their colourful flowers and deciduous foliage. The birds attracted by the fruit trees enhance the aesthetic quality of the site. (Criterion 1.3)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

From its elevated position on the edge of the darling scarp, *Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda* provides an impressive, unimpeded view towards the city of Perth and the coastal plain of the Swan River. There are also many picturesque glimpses of this spectacular view of the coastal plain visible down the low valley of Crumpet Creek and through the stands of natural vegetation. (Criterion 1.3)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is an example of land use during the 1930s in the Darling Ranges before population pressures and rising land values rendered that use non-viable. It is an example of a small holding that could raise a commercial crop and in conjunction with home produce sustain a family.

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda illustrates how topography was modified to provide an ideal growing site by utilising a dam and rock-walls to take advantage of the inherent fertility of the soil and a natural source of water. (Criterion 2.1)

The orchard plantings at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* present an example of the typical selection of fruit trees which were grown in domestic orchards and are now rarely seen due to the introduction of new commercial hybrids, changes in pruning practices and the constraints of smaller holdings due to the urbanisation of land that was once largely devoted to horticultural activities. (Criterion 2.2)

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is closely associated with the Walters and Robinson families who ran a cut-flower nursery on the property from c. 1935 to c. 1967. Arthur Walters built the house (no longer extant) and established the nursery. (Criterion 2.3)

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is associated with George Frederick Glyde, who owned the property between 1909 and 1924 and used it for grazing cattle or sheep. According to local legend, the place was also used for retiring some of the older, non-dangerous, animals from the Perth Zoo and during this time it was known as Zoo Valley. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The remnant orchard plants at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda* can provide a gene pool for older cultivars that have now been superseded due to changes in horticulture. The exotic trees, shrubs and bulbs could be a useful source of clonal material for the propagation of 'period' plants. (Criterion 3.1)

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda contains an easily observed example of wandoo trees following the fertile, loamy soil of the dolorite dykes, a feature of the Ridge Hill soil classification. (Criterion 3.1)

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda has the potential to reveal scientific information on the development of the floriculture industry in Western Australia and the creation of new varieties of flowers. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is valued by the local community for its previous associations with a local family enterprise. (Criterion 4.1)

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda contributes to the local community's sense of place as a marker of the previous occupation and use of the property. The local community expressed concern regarding the future of the place c.2000. (Criterion 4.2)

The large area of bushland and the tributary of Crumpet Creek contribute to the local community's sense of place as a popular area of public open space. The importance to the community of this landscape was demonstrated by the formation of the community group, the Friends of Crumpet Creek, to protect this community asset. The local environmental group has taken an interest by recording the native species and shown concern at the spread of exotics into the surrounding bushland. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda is rare as it contains original plantings from the time it was established in c.1935 that illustrate the development of the floriculture industry in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

The camellia trees, crepe myrtles and oaks are unusual as large, robust and well-formed examples of early Twentieth Century cultivars of these plants and they are also unusual as examples of these plants that have survived and flowered/fruited unaided on site for over 20 years. (Criterion 5.1)

The orchard plantings at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* present an example of the typical selection of fruit trees grown in domestic orchards but which are now rare due to the introduction of new commercial hybrids, changes in pruning practices and the urbanisation of horticultural land. (Criterion 5.1)

The irrigation method and the dry rock wall terracing at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* illustrate a tradition of land use where the topography of the site was modified to provide an ideal growing site by utilising the inherent fertility of the soil and a source of water, which are less important today due to the use of artificial fertilisers, modern technology and reticulation. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is an early representative example of European land use in the Darling Ranges before population pressures and rising land values rendered agricultural land use largely unviable

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is an example of a small holding that could raise a commercial crop and in conjunction with home produce sustain a family. (Criterion 6.1)

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is a typical example of a commercial floriculture nursery established in the Inter-War period. (Criterion 6.1)

The orchard plantings present an example of the typical selection of fruit trees grown on small holdings for domestic use. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

A site visit in July 2008 confirmed that the remnants of the former Floriculture Nursery are overgrown but the surviving mature plantings appear to be mostly in reasonable condition. Some surviving plantings, such as the Oaks are in good condition. The fruit trees have suffered somewhat since regular pruning stopped. The Camellias and Crepe Myrtles were not able to be identified as access to some areas was restricted due to localised flooding and remote identification was not possible due to seasonal dormancy. In places indigenous species are beginning to recolonise the formerly cultivated areas.

The earth dam and the surviving sections of the dry stone walls are in fair to poor condition but the shade house structure is in very poor condition.

The Bush Land that surrounds the place would appear to be in fair to good condition with some regeneration of under storey plants. The wandoo trees appear to be in a good state of health with little dieback or dead branches evident and the flooded gums along the waterline have healthy foliage and show little signs of the ravages of lerp and gall insects

12.4 INTEGRITY

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda has moderate integrity because although it is no longer used as a nursery, many of the original plantings survive and some flower/fruit unaided.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The mature plants that have survived in the former Floriculture Nursery are highly authentic but some maintenance and interpretation is required to make the place's original use apparent. The construction of the dam and the dry stone walls makes the assessment of their authenticity difficult but they would appear to date from the development of the Floriculture Nursery.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman and Kelsall Binet Architects, in conjunction with John Viska, Horticulturalist, in 2001, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee. The documentation was updated in August 2008 and October 2008.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda comprises remnants of a floriculture nursery that operated for the commercial production of cut-flowers between c.1935 and c.1967. The place was established by retired school principal Arthur Walters on his property, *Asphodel*, on Swan Location 1394. In 1978, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority (now Western Australian Planning Commission) purchased the site as part of a green belt. Other elements of the place, including a house built c.1935, a timber, asbestos and iron dwelling (c. 1895); 'the camp' (timber and iron, c.1933); and a transportable home (c.1940) are no longer extant.

Following the establishment of the Swan River Colony, land in the Darling Ranges was not taken up until the 1860s, and it was 1873 before the first permanent settler built a dwelling on his land. The thickly wooded and rocky terrain of the area discouraged earlier settlement, despite the proximity to Perth. The first settlers ran sheep, with vegetable gardens, orchards and strawberry cultivation being established in the well-watered areas. A number of small communities developed, among them Kalamunda.¹

In the 1890s, an early failed timber business was revitalised to become Canning Jarrah Timber Company, supplying railway sleepers, and timber for the gold mines. The zig-zag railway line was built from the Canning Timber Mill to Midland to transport the timber, but was used also to transport people and

¹ Slee, J. & Shaw, W. *Cala Munnda: A Home in the Forest*, Perth, 1979, pp. 3-14.

produce. With the huge increase in the State's population brought about by the gold boom, more land was taken up in the district and small communities developed along the railway line. One person to take up land was miner, Hugh Fraser. In 1895, he obtained the title to the 145 acre (58.7 ha) parcel of Swan Location 1394, west of the Kalamunda townsite,² which subsequently contained *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda*. The growing population of the district resulted in the establishment of the Darling Range Roads Board in 1898.³

Hugh Fraser built a timber, asbestos and iron dwelling on the property 'about the size of a shed' (remains still visible).⁴ It was situated on the opposite side of the valley to *Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda*, at about the same height above the valley floor. Fraser is also said to have operated a small gold mine somewhere on the property.⁵

By 1909, Fraser's land had been transferred to George Frederick Glyde, 'gentleman of Perth', who also owned other property in the Darling Range.⁶ During Glyde's ownership, Location 1394 was possibly used for grazing cattle or sheep, as well as some more exotic animals. Local history has it that Perth Zoo retired some of its older, non-dangerous, animals to the property, and the place was known as Zoo Valley.⁷ The property does not appear to have been occupied by anyone during this period.⁸ George Glyde died in 1924 and the property passed to family members. In 1928, Location 1394 was purchased by Elizabeth and Charles Davies. Charles Davies is recorded as being a dairyman in Kalamunda, and it is possible that dairy cattle were run on the land at this time.⁹

Kalamunda had become popular as a holiday retreat shortly after the turn of the century. In 1903, the Government had purchased the zig-zag railway in order to provide a more regular service for residents, and the improved transport also brought visitors to the area, encouraged by newspaper reports on the delights of the local flora. The natural beauty of the Darling Ranges, together with the availability of fresh produce and the idea that the clean, fresh air of the hills offered a healthier environment than Perth in the summer time, resulted in a flourishing tourist industry. Guesthouses, restaurants and cafes opened and simple weekend cottages were built, as well as more imposing residences on prominent sites.¹⁰

In 1933, when Arthur Ferdinand Walters purchased Location 1394 he had more in mind than a holiday destination.¹¹ Walters, a schoolteacher, and principal of the Princess May School in Fremantle, had a long held interest in floriculture, which he was keen to develop further. To this end he built a dwelling on Location

2 Certificate of Title Vol. 77 Fol. 35, 4 December 1895.

3 Slee, J. & Shaw, W. op cit, pp. 3-14.

4 Telephone conversation by Heritage Council officers with Margaret Fowler, Coordinator Friends of Crummet Creek, 28 October 2008.

5 Telephone conversation by Irene Sauman with Les Robinson, grandson of Arthur Walters, 21 February 2000.

6 Darling Range Roads Board, rate books 1900-1920.

7 Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes on *House and former Floriculture Nursery*; Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit. This could be ascertained through further research.

8 Darling Range Roads Board, rate books 1900-1920.

9 Certificate of Title Vol. 440 Fol. 196, 2 February 1924 & 20 December 1928.

10 Slee, J. & Shaw, W. op cit, pp. 114-125.

11 Certificate of Title Vol. 440 Fol. 196 & Vol. 1034 Fol. 774, 28 August 1933.

1394, a basic, 'weekender', known as 'the camp'.¹² The exact date of construction of this dwelling is unclear, but it was most likely built shortly after purchase of the property.¹³ Arthur and Edith Walters, and their family, used 'the camp' during weekend visits while establishing an orchard and floriculture nursery.¹⁴

Walters retired to Location 1394 and constructed a more permanent home, possibly in 1935 as a £1,250 mortgage, to a Fanny Walters of Melbourne, was raised on the property that year.¹⁵ The mortgage may have financed the house and some of the other work he was undertaking to establish the floriculture nursery.¹⁶

The house was constructed beside 'the camp', with a walkway between the two buildings. The bathroom and laundry in 'the camp' continued to be used. The timber for the house was carted by horse and dray and skidded down the hill to the building site.¹⁷ Walters named the property 'Asphodel', an aesthetic reference associated with the yellow and white flowering plants of the *Asphodelus* and *Asphodeline* genera, which includes daffodils, which he grew in abundance in the Floriculture Nursery. As a school principal of his era, Arthur Walters probably had a classical education and would have been familiar with the reference, in Greek mythology, to asphodels covering the Elysian fields, the dwelling place of the blessed after death.¹⁸

As well as daffodils, the floriculture nursery included arum lilies grown in Crummet Creek on the valley floor, a series of ponds for the cultivation of water lilies, a shade house for hydrangeas, a rockery, a dozen camellias which supplied white flowers for Karrakatta cemetery, Dutch iris, and roses. The orchard included apple, plum and quince trees, and there were blackberry and mulberry bushes. A dam for irrigation was established on the rise of the hill to supply irrigation water by gravity feed. The dam also supplied water for the house.¹⁹ Fresh flowers from *Floriculture Nursery (fmr)*, Kalamunda were supplied to florists in Fremantle and Perth.

Cut flowers were a major decorative feature in the domestic and social environments of Western Australians from the 1920s to 1960s. During the inter-war years they were used in the home, as well as on special occasions such as marriages, funerals, balls and civic receptions. During the late 1930s, following the Depression and before the beginning of World War II, there was also a boom in the construction and remodelling of movie theatres in Perth and suburbs, and

12 Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes, op cit; Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit.

13 Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes, op cit. The notes give the date as c. 1920, but as Arthur Walter did not purchase the property until 1933, this is clearly too early.

14 Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit. The Walters had five children. The youngest, Tom, grew up at 120 Heath Road.

15 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1034 Fol. 774, 23 November 1935 & 24 February 1946.

16 Legislative Assembly Electoral Rolls, Swan Division, 31 October 1935. Walters, and his wife Edith, are listed in the Legislative Assembly Electoral Rolls and Wise's Post Office Directory as residing at Heath Road, Kalamunda in 1935. Both records list Arthur Walters as retired. See Wise's Post Office Directories, 1933-1935.

17 Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit.

18 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1034 Fol. 774; *Collins Dictionary of the English Language*, Collins, Sydney, 1979.

19 Telephone Conversation with Les Robinson, op. cit.

elegant fresh flower displays were a feature of theatre foyers, with daffodils and gladioli being especially favoured.²⁰

Most of Perth's floristry businesses were run by women and conducted from small premises in the arcades of Perth, and suburban high street shops.²¹ Lorna May was a floral assistant who worked in Dawson Harrison and Wilson and John's floral departments from the late 1930's to 1970. She recalls the following floristry businesses; Miss Mack's Floral Studio in Newspaper Arcade, St Georges Terrace; Nancy Pauly in Piccadilly Arcade; Belle Menzel in William Street, Northbridge; Frapes; Miss Newman, Bayswater, and Richardsons in Fremantle. There were also small growers that sold violets, daffodils and boronia from baskets on the streets and corners of central Perth.²²

However, during the 1930s, each of the larger commercial nurseries began to also provide floral services direct to their customers. Dawson Harrison, and Wilson and Johns had firmly established their commercial offices and retail outlets in Barrack Street, Perth close to the Railway Station by the 1930s as the railway linked them to the growers in the hills as well as the port of Fremantle ensuring that they could receive flowers from the smaller holdings in the hills and then sell or dispatch them to ships in port.²³ The type of floral services provided are illustrated in Newman's 1939 nursery catalogue, which lists bridal and bridesmaid's bouquets and sheaves, early Victorian posies, Bon Voyage Baskets of fruit and flowers, Fancy Boxes of choice flowers and fern, which could be delivered free to Fremantle, as well as ladies shoulder sprays, wreaths, crosses and funeral emblems.²⁴ Dawson Harrison, and Wilson and Johns provided similar services.²⁵

Kalamunda and the hills district have a long history of floriculture. In 1898, the Kalamunda Horticultural Society was formed, and the Society's annual shows have always featured floral exhibits.²⁶ Garden parties and garden competitions were a regular event on the early social calendar of the district, with the *Kalamunda Week Guide* of 1939 claiming Kalamunda gardens as being among the most beautiful in the Commonwealth. The heavy soils and cooler summer climate of the hills provided the right ingredients for successful floriculture when coupled with access to water.²⁷

Between the 1920s and 1960s, the Kalamunda and hills districts were a major supplier of cut flowers to the metropolitan area. Many hills properties grew flowers commercially. Roadside stalls selling flowers were common. Violets, a hardy perennial requiring little work, were grown by orchardists for sale at the Perth markets, and in Paull's Valley daffodils were grown on a large scale.²⁸ The

20 'Gala Opening of the Piccadilly Theatre', *Building and Construction*, 11 March 1938, pp. 4-9; 'Hoyts Plaza Theatre & Arcade', *Building and Construction*, 17 September 1937, pp. 3-8 & Tenders p. 11; *Building and Construction*, 12 February 1937, Tenders, p. 10.

21 The Western Australian Directory [Wise's] 1938-1939, p 734 downloaded on 15 August 2008 from <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/1938/0388.pdf>.

22 Interview with Lorna May 15/3/1998 and 20/5/2000.

23 Conversations with Lorna May (15/3/1998) and Marie Parton, (15/5/2000)

24 Newman, C., *Newman's Catalogue of Roses, Shrubs, Fruit Trees etc* 1939

25 Dawson Harrison, 1939 *Seed and Plant Catalogue*, Daniels Print, Perth, 1939

26 *Swan Express*, report on prize winners at 1902 Kalamunda Horticultural Society show.

27 Information provided by Carol Mansfield, op cit.

28 Information provided by John Viska, Garden History Society; *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1930s & 1940s trade listings; *The West Australian Gardener*, various advertisements in 1930s-1940s issues

earliest major flower supplier in the district was probably Dawson & Harrison, established first in Belmont in 1903, before moving to Forrestfield. This business also operated a florist shop in Barrack Street, Perth, and a plant nursery at its Forrestfield site. It still operates the latter, although it is now known simply as Dawson's and does not sell cut flowers.²⁹

Herbaceous perennials such as irises, lilliums and daffodils thrived in the heavier hills soils with their inherent fertility and cooler soil and lower night temperatures. These specialist flowers were normally more expensive to purchase due to their slower rate of reproduction and limited flower production compared to many of the annual cut flowers that could be easily raised on the sandy soils of the coastal plain. Herbaceous perennials were sold by the stem and any grower raising these plants would be able to make a viable living. The Asphodel nursery would have been in a prime position as a supplier of these flowers.

Of the herbaceous plants raised by the Asphodel Nursery the irises and daffodils would have been spring flowering and dormant in summer. As a consequence the moisture in the loam based soil from autumn and winter rains would have been sufficient to nurture the daffodil and iris bulbs and they would not have required water over the summer months. The lilies, however, flowered in summer and would have needed constant irrigation from the perennial Crumpet Creek. Due to the nature of these commercial crops that were grown in spring and late summer, autumn and winter would have been lean times, as there appeared to be no other commercial crops grown at the Floriculture Nursery.

In 1938, *The West Australian Gardener* published an article written by Arthur Walters under the pseudonym of "Asphodel". The article is about the cultivation and propagation of *Lilium* and it also describes the best varieties for the different West Australian soil conditions. Two photographs of *Lilium* cultivated at his nursery are included in the article. These photographs focus on the impressive displays of *Lilium* flowers and only a wooded hillside can be seen in the background. There is an unidentified woman, possibly Walter's wife or daughter, in one photograph.³⁰

Arthur Walters did not advertise his floriculture nursery widely to the general public, nor did he sell plants or seeds, or floral arrangements.³¹ He first appeared in Wise's Postal Directory in 1946 listed under the category of Florist,³² although he was actually a wholesaler to retail florists. As such, he appears to have been in a minority in this area of specialisation, certainly in the early years.³³

The Australian Heritage Commission categorises gardens established for floriculture within the 'Utilitarian, Acclimatisation and Mission Garden' type, which also includes market gardens. The layout of this garden type generally consists of squared areas, trenched or ridged, a design, which allows for ease of

29 Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit; Richards, Oline *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, Final report, April, 1997, p.64; *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1930s & 1940s trade listings; *The West Australian Gardener*, various advertisements in 1930s - 1940s issues; West Australian Yellow Pages, Vol. L-Z, entries under Plant Nurseries.

30 Walters, A. 'Asphodel', "Liliums", published in *The West Australian Gardener*, 1 January 1938, p. 155.

31 Information provided by John Viska, Garden History Society. The floral arrangements were most likely provided by a Fremantle florist who had obtained the flowers from the Floriculture Nursery.

32 Western Australian Directory [Wise's] 1946 - 1947, p. 804 downloaded on 15 August 2008 from <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/1946.html>

33 John Viska, op. cit

management. This type of garden is limited to a size of 30 acres (12 ha), as anything larger would be considered a 'primary produce landscape', in other words, a farm.³⁴ Walters' floriculture nursery fits within this size restriction.³⁵

Arthur Walters was not alone in his work. He was assisted by his daughter, Kathleen, who is listed in the 1936 Legislative Council Electoral Rolls as a florist. When Kathleen married, her husband, Edward Robinson, also worked at the floriculture nursery. The Robinsons occupied a transportable home (not extant) on the property and raised two children there.³⁶

In 1952, Arthur Walters offered the property to his son-in-law, Edward Robinson, in a deal 'too good to refuse', and the title to Location 1394 was duly transferred.³⁷ Arthur Walters died two years later, in August 1954, and the Robinsons moved into the house. The transportable house, carrying some termite damage, was rented out. Edward and Kathleen Robinson continued to operate the nursery, adding the breeding of hybrid flowers to the nursery operations.³⁸

In the years after World War II, the Fremantle florists provided flowers to the cruise ships that called at the port. *Floriculture Nursery (fmr)*, Kalamunda is claimed to have supplied flowers to the Royal yacht, *Gothic*, during the March 1954 tour of Western Australia by Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.³⁹ A blue iris that Arthur Walters developed is reputed to have been so admired by the Queen that she asked for some to be sent back to England.⁴⁰

The rates payable on Location 1394 grew to be a burden as the land increased in value due to population pressures.⁴¹ In August 1960, the Robinsons sold 10 acres (4.05ha) of the south-east corner of the property to Alan Bond and David King, for the 'Sunset Ridge' residential development. After purchasing four acres of land on Orange Valley Road, Lesmurdie, the Robinsons then sold the remaining 135 acres (54.25 ha) of Location 1394 to Leonard and Ruth Pond, farmers of Bendering.⁴²

The Robinsons moved to Lesmurdie but leased back the floriculture nursery for the next six or seven years, during which time they established another nursery and poultry farm on their new property. The Ponds ran about one hundred head

³⁴ Ramsay, Juliet Parks, *Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, AHC, April 1991, pp. 2-3 & 12-13.

³⁵ Information provided by physical inspection.

³⁶ Legislative Assembly Electoral Rolls, Swan Division, 21 February 1939; Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit.

³⁷ Certificate of Title Vol. 1034 Fol. 774, 24 January 1952 & 5 August 1954.

³⁸ Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes, op cit.; Legislative Assembly Electoral Rolls, Darling Range Division, 1954-1964; Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit.

³⁹ Information provided by Carol Mansfield, hills resident and member of the Kalamunda Historical Society; *West Australian*, 24-31 March 1954. Apart from ascertaining that the Royal Yacht at this time was named *Gothic*, and not *Britannia*, no information was found regarding its floral decorations. However, according to Les Robinson, his grandfather supplied flowers to florists in Fremantle, who in turn supplied floral arrangements to the cruise ships. Therefore it is more than likely that the floral arrangements that decorated *Gothic* were provided by a Fremantle florist who used flowers from the Floriculture Nursery.

⁴⁰ Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit. An investigation of Government despatches could verify this claim.

⁴¹ Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit.

⁴² Certificate of Title, Vol. 1034 Fol. 774, 31 August & 12 September 1960; Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes, op cit.

of cattle at the property and used the house as a weekender.⁴³ In 1967, the Ponds' two daughters, Betty and June, took up equal shares in the property with their parents. Betty Pond married Ian Philp in 1971, and their address at this time is given as 120 Heath Road, suggesting they probably occupied the house as their first home.⁴⁴ In the mid-1970s, mechanic George Elder leased the property and occupied the house, growing 'quantities' of tomatoes on the site of the former floriculture nursery.⁴⁵

In 1978, the remaining portion of Location 1394 was purchased by the State Government's Metropolitan Region Planning Authority (now Western Australian Planning Commission) as part of a green belt.⁴⁶

In 1982, Kim Hough leased the property and repaired and restored the house to make it suitable for modern-day living. Prior to his tenancy, the house had been empty for some time and it had suffered from neglect and vandalism.⁴⁷

A site plan of 120 Heath Road dated 2 June 1988 shows that a band of land running across the centre of the site from north to south had been reserved for an important regional road.⁴⁸ In order to allow the public unrestricted access to the hiking trails that pass through the property the lease was later restricted to the driveway, the house, and a small area of surrounding land. The reduced extent of the lease is indicated on the 1988 site plan.⁴⁹

During the 1990s, Kim Hough carried out further works to the place but these tend to have involved the addition of new structures rather than renovation. These works included a timber pergola, a timber deck and a single roomed shed at the rear of the house.⁵⁰ The tenant vacated the property in April 2000, and the property was managed by CALM.⁵¹

Crumpet Creek, an important habitat for a large array of native flora, runs through the property along the valley floor. The Friends of Crumpet Creek was formed for its protection, and a survey of the habitat undertaken by zoologist John Dell.⁵² It could be argued that the existence of a former floriculture nursery, with remnants of introduced and exotic species of flora, is not compatible with, and may even be damaging to, a native flora habitat. The relatively small size of the former floriculture nursery, however, probably counters this argument, although the arum lilies formerly grown in the creek may be an issue. The Kalamunda Historical Society has expressed an interest in the preservation of *Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda*.⁵³

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- 43 Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes, op cit; Legislative Assembly Electoral Rolls, Darling Range Division, 1960-65; Telephone conversation with Les Robinson, op cit.
 - 44 Certificate of Title, Vol 1240 Fol. 787, 7 February 1967 & 18 December 1971; *West Australian Telephone Directories*, 1960-1978.
 - 45 Kalamunda Public Library, Historical notes, op cit.
 - 46 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1240 Fol. 787, 27 June 1978 & Vol. 1607 Fol. 673.
 - 47 Conversation with Kim Hough, February 2000.
 - 48 Site Plan of Pt. Swan Location 1394 Heath Road C.T. 1607/673, Revised 2/6/88, received from the Ministry of Planning.
 - 49 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1956 Fol. 11; Information provided by Neil Robinson, Ministry of Planning; Information provided by Marcia Maher, Kalamunda Public Library.
 - 50 Ibid.
 - 51 Telephone conversation with Mathew Johnson of Blackburn Real Estate, May 2000.
 - 52 Information provided by Marcia Maher, Kalamunda Public Library; maps of the area.
 - 53 Information provided by Neil Robinson, Ministry of Planning; Information provided by Marcia Maher, Kalamunda Public Library.

When *Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda* was placed on the Register of Heritage Places in July 2001, the c. 1935 house and two sheds were still extant. In May 2002, the Heritage Council received an application from the Western Australian Planning Commission for demolition of the house. WAPC held freehold title over the registered curtilage and vacant possession of the house. The land is located within the Darling Range Regional Park and is reserved for 'Parks and Recreation'. It was proposed that WAPC dispose of the land to CALM (now Department of Environment and Conservation), under a government initiative designed to amalgamate reserve land into manageable parcels under common vesting and management. As per CALM's policy, they would not accept the land unless it was cleared of all existing improvements. The Shire of Kalamunda advised that they had neither the use nor the means to utilise the house, mainly due to its isolated location. The Heritage Council's development committee supported the application in 2002 provided that an interpretation proposal was prepared. It was recommended that the interpretation be implemented at the site of the house, to form a resting post for visitors to the area.⁵⁴

In June 2008, the house and all other buildings have been cleared from the site. There is no interpretation evident at the site.⁵⁵

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda is located at 120 Heath Road, a large 54.2878 hectare property in Kalamunda sited on the edge of the Darling Scarp. A steeply sloping gravel track leads from Heath Road to the remnants of the former floriculture nursery, Asphodel.

Siting

To the west of the site is the undeveloped bush land of the Darling Scarp and to the north, south and east is the low density, suburban development of Kalamunda. Much of this surrounding development dates from after the 1960s and is characterised by single storey brick and tile houses. More recently, redevelopment of this area has resulted in the construction of larger two storey brick and tile houses.

The Former Floriculture Nursery Site

The site is steeply contoured with the ground falling sharply away to the west towards the coastal plain and also towards a shallow valley in the south-east. This valley contains the permanent stream, a tributary of Crumpet Creek, which originally provided water to the gardens of the Floriculture Nursery. The tributary joins Crumpet Creek further down the hill.

To the south of the site there are granite outcrops with isolated rocks and boulders protruding from soil that had been tilled. The soil of the cleared areas is a rich, friable, loam with an organic content typical of the Ridge Hill Soil classification. In the moist areas surrounding the tributary there are many mature exotic trees and shrubs. There are glimpses of the panoramic views of Perth and the coastal plain along the valley.

On the east side of the site, the highest point of the tributary, there is a small earth dam. The area around this dam is extremely overgrown with the blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*, reeds and native shrubs but it would appear to have an earth

⁵⁴ 'House and former Floriculture Nursery', HCWA File P15265.

⁵⁵ Jacqui Sherriff & Penny O'Connor, HCWA, site visit, 30 June 2008.

wall that retains the water of the holding pond. The holding pond has a surface area of approximately 100m². This dam is probably the one that was constructed to provide water for *Floriculture Nursery (fmr)*, Kalamunda but there are no visible remnants of pipes or conduits that may have reticulated water to the House or nursery.

To the south-west, below the Dam, there are remnants of an orchard that was planted around the tributary. Many productive trees are extant showing a typical range of domestic, orchard plantings that were common when households grew their own fruits. In 2001, these plantings included a black mulberry *Morus nigra*, quinces *Cydonia oblonga*, plums *Prunus domestica* [much of the growth appeared to be from the vigorous understock] pears *Pyrus communis*, seedling figs *Ficus carica* and an apple *Malus x domestica*. A large apricot *Prunus armeniaca* stands further up the slope away from the creek, this species is intolerant of permanently wet soils. These fruit trees are typical survivors from when essential orchard cultivation techniques cease, especially the pears that will live to well over a century. In 2008, it was only possible to confirm that the plums, figs and the apricot were still extant due to seasonal conditions, although what appear to be other fruit trees of different species are still extant.

Throughout the orchard area is evidence of the blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*, which has become an invasive weed. In 2001, two introduced ornamentals, watsonia (*Watsonia*) species and bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) had become firmly established around the creek. In 2008, only Watsonia was observed, but this had become severely invasive. There was evidence that an invasive creeper had been sprayed as dead remnants smothered some fruit trees, and this may have been bridal creeper.

Arum lilies (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), which were very popular for wedding bouquets, relish wet conditions and appear along the sides of the creek and in the moist areas beyond, as do a small population of snowdrops (*Leucojum vernum*). In 2008, rows of other bulbs were also clearly evident on both sides of the creek, on the sloping banks to the south, and more extensively on the flat area to the west. The species could not be identified due to the time of year of the site visit in July, but they appeared from their leaf form to be of a single species.

To the south-west of the stand of fruit trees, on the north side of the tributary, there are remnants of stone terracing constructed to create a relatively level growing field. By its position it is possible that this field may have been irrigated by the water from the rough earth dam further up the slope and as such it would have been ideally suited to the culture of liliiums with their summer water requirements. In this area there are also remnants of several posts with wire strands and a large gauge wire mesh. These posts, each approximately two metres high and some showing evidence of being burnt seem to have supported the mesh for a shade house construction. In 2001 these remains were covered by the deciduous Chinese trumpet vine (*Campsis grandiflora*). This vine may have provided summer shade and let in winter sun to the shade house plants. The presence of this creeper could not be confirmed in 2008. To the west of the posts is some more dry stone walling and terraced garden beds, which suggest an entrance to the former construction.

In 2001, there was a population of exotic trees and shrubs to the south of the flat area consisting of a grove of nine large, old, camellia bushes that were still producing flowers under a canopy of oaks. This area could not be investigated in 2008 due to localised flooding so it is not know if these specimens are still extant.

Camellias are a forest dwelling species from China that revel in cool, moist, protected sites of organically enriched, acid soils and will, with age, attain the proportions of a small tree. The specimens at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* were between four and five metres high. In 2001, three cultivars of camellia were identified by their flowers namely (*Camellia japonica*) 'Lady Loch', 'Guilfoyle's Helen' and 'Mrs A.M.Hovey'. The remainder of the cultivars were not flowering at the time of the site visits in 2001 or 2008. All the cultivars identified were released commercially in the late nineteenth century and listed in the West Australian nursery catalogues of Newman's Nursery and Dawson and Harrison. These cultivars were available in the period of the occupation of the site but due to their specialised growing conditions, they were more expensive than the standard camellias usually planted in domestic gardens and are a good example of a plant connoisseur's selection. Specimens as tall as these are a rare sight today and with the increased interest in camellia hybridising many of the older cultivars are no longer commercially available.

Three oaks growing along the creek provide a shady canopy for the group of camellias and their leaves a rich source of organic matter. There appear to be two separate species one specimen growing alone while the other is in fact two trees growing close together with their combined canopy being approximately 16 metres in diameter. These trees are not the commonly seen English Oak *Quercus robur* of which many specimens have been recorded around Perth, but are of a large leafed variety with lighter coloured trunks. The species are yet to be determined, as oaks are not only classified by their leaves but as well as their acorns that do not appear until summer. However, this seems to be a rare species not frequently encountered in Western Australia. In 2008, the presence of the oaks could not be confirmed as the area was inaccessible due to localised flooding.

In 2001, four healthy examples of the crepe myrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica*, were identified near the oaks, with one attaining the proportions of a small tree. All of them were perfect specimens, unlike many old plants that show the permanent scars of bad pruning practices performed to induce more flowers at the expense of the plant's form and health. In 2008, the presence of the crepe myrtles could not be confirmed due to localised flooding.

Other plants identified in 2001 included the Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'), cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster serotina*), *Pyracantha* species, lilly pilly (*Acmena smithii*), two Jacarandas (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and a large spreading shrub of Cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*). Along the eastern side of the creek there are isolated specimens of the Australian tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*) with some evidence of them becoming naturalised in the moist environment. Of these, those evident in 2008 were the Lombardy Poplar, the Jacaradas, and isolated specimens of the Australian Tree fern, although some areas were severely overgrown with blackberries and many plants were dormant.

In 2001, large clumping mounds, many showing signs of being sprayed by herbicide, proved to be of the rose species *Rosa fortuneana*. This rose became the preferred root stock for commercial rose growers in Western Australia from the late 1920's being promoted by Charles Newman a prominent local nurseryman. These plants were allowed to grow as large mounding shrubs to provide the canes for propagational material for the following year's budding. These mounds could have originally been budded specimens but with neglect and the ravages of time have reverted to vigorous root stock. This rose was also

grown in its own right as a flowering climber being very tolerant of Perth's hot, dry summers. Mounds were still evident in 2008, but as it was winter, it could not be determined whether any roses had survived.

Also found close by in 2001 was the rose *Rosa manettii*, this species was also used as a root stock early in the twentieth century but was superseded by *fortuneana*. Two other plants that were easily propagated from cuttings were also found in the same vicinity namely the shrub rose 'Bloomfield's Abundance' [1920] and the rambling rose 'Dorothy Perkins' [1905]. None of these species could be confirmed in 2008 due to winter dormancy and the dense growth of *Watsonia* in this area.

The house at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* was demolished c.2003. The cleared area where the wooden framed, asbestos clad house stood is clearly visible overlooking the valley to the west. The original gravel track that provided access to the house is still extant, and heads north-north-east up to Heath Road

Apart from the grassed area around the remains of the house site and the remnants of the floriculture gardens and orchard, the site is covered with indigenous plants. This area, referred to in this assessment as 'bush land', is covered with mature native trees and the undergrowth, which may have been denuded by the pasturing of livestock on the land, appears to be regenerating.

The uncleared areas show the dominant native gums of the area wandoo *Eucalyptus wandoo*, marri *Corymbia calophylla* and flooded gum *Eucalyptus rudis* with swishbush *Viminaria juncea* and *Agonis linearifolia* along the upper reaches of the creek. The site displays a good example of wandoo trees following the fertile, loamy soil of the dolomite dykes that are a feature of the Ridge Hill soil association.

In areas that have not been cleared native shrubs such as *Dryandra nivea*, *Hakea* species and *Hovea pungens* as well as grass trees *Xanthorrhoea preissii* are thriving. In the areas that had been previously cleared, there has been some regeneration of local species with marri seedlings recolonising formerly cultivated areas.

Since its closure in the 1960s, *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* has not been intentionally altered, but it has suffered the loss of original plantings and landscape features through neglect and the natural attrition of short-lived plant species. Also it is likely that when the Robinson's closed the nursery they removed valuable bulbs and those that would not survive unattended, and took other portable items to their new nursery.

The remnants of the *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* are overgrown but the surviving mature plantings appear to be mostly in reasonable condition. Some surviving plantings such as the Oaks, Camellias and Crepe Myrtles were in good condition in 2001. However, the fruit trees have suffered somewhat since regular pruning stopped. In places indigenous species are beginning to recolonise the formerly cultivated areas.

The earth dam and the surviving sections of the dry stone walls are in fair to poor condition.

The Bush Land that surrounds *Floriculture Nursery (fmr) Kalamunda* and the indigenous species on the site would appear to be in fair to good condition and some regeneration of under storey plants has occurred. The wandoo trees appear to be in a good state of health with little dieback or dead branches evident

and showing their preference of following the fertile loams formed in the dolomite dykes. The flooded gums along the waterline have healthy foliage and little signs of the ravages of lerp and gall insects probably due to the populations of the native birds such as blue wrens, grey fantails, pardalotes and wattlebirds that inhabit the area

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The Nursery Trade in Western Australia

The early nurseries of Western Australia were established around the swamps and wetlands of Perth. Here they had the advantage of water while the peaty soils compensated for the inherent lack of fertility characterised by the sands of the coastal plain. Barratt's Nursery, established in 1860 and based until 1904 in Douro Street off Wellington Street, West Perth on the fringes of the former Lake Kingsford was an early example. Barratt advertised himself under both the categories of Florists, and Nurserymen and Seedsmen in Wise's Postal Directory.⁵⁶

With the finding of gold and the subsequent growth of the population in the 1890's other large general nurseries were established including Newmans (1897) at Rivervale, Wilson and Johns at Cannington (1898) and Dawson & Harrison (1901) at Belmont. In the hills area, Jacques Hawter established the Darling Nurseries at Glen Forest in 1887.⁵⁷

Many smaller holdings were established to produce more specialised products, for example the following nurseries began to grow roses, Charles Rhodes at Guildford (1907), Hugo Bommeli at Parkerville (1930s) and Laurel Nursery in Bayswater (1930s). In the hills region, Loaring at Bickley and Paull at Kalamunda specialised in bulbs with Lauterbach, at Bassendean growing gladiolus and Paulik growing carnations and chrysanthemums at Spearwood. There were also small-scale growers working from domestic gardens.⁵⁸

A regular water supply was the first concern of any horticulturalist hoping to ensure a viable living. Ground water on the coastal plain was easily accessible from the fresh water swamps whereas in the hills the supply would have been obtained from catchment or a natural source as the Kalamunda region did not gain a reticulated water supply until the 1950s.⁵⁹ The water supply from Crumpet Creek and the fertile soils on the holdings would have ensured that the site where the *Floriculture Nursery (fmr)*, Kalamunda was established was a viable concern.

The earliest major flower supplier in the Kalamunda district was probably Dawson & Harrison, established first in Belmont in 1903, before moving to Forrestfield. This business also operated a florist shop in Barrack Street, Perth, and a plant nursery at its Forrestfield site. It still operates as the latter, although it is now known simply as Dawson's and does not sell cut flowers.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Viska, J, *Barratt's Wellington Nursery*, 1988, unpublished paper & The Western Australian Directory [Wise's], 1895-1896 pp. 255 & 280, downloaded on 15 August 2008 from <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/1895.html>

⁵⁷ Viska, J, op cit.

⁵⁸ ibid.

⁵⁹ Flee, J. and Shaw, B., *Kalamunda, A Home in the Forest*, Shire of Kalamunda, 1979

⁶⁰ *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1930s & 1940s trade listings; *The West Australian Gardener*, various advertisements in 1930s - 1940s issues; West Australian Yellow Pages, Vol. L-Z, entries under Plant Nurseries.

It was common during the 1930s and 1940s for nurserymen to combine the occupations of seedsman and florist in their business operation, with most plant nurseries having plots for cut-flower cultivation. The floriculture ventures of the nurserymen acted as living advertisements for their seeds and plants, as well as providing an extra outlet to their business. Each nursery tended to specialise in one or two flower species, with daffodils, gladioli and roses being among the most popular, although Wilson & Johns, of Fremantle, advertised prize winning sweet peas.⁶¹ Many of the nurseries exhibited flowers at the various horticultural shows, as well as throwing their commercial gardens open to the public during flowering season.⁶²

In 1932, Charles Rhodes advertised his business as 'nurseryman, seedsman & florist' with nurseries at Guildford, Bassendean and Darling Range, while 'Moondoo Glads' of Bassendean, invited visitors to come and see their gladioli in bloom, in December 1933. 'Moondoo Glads' gladioli corms were sold by Foy & Gibson. Along with Charles Newman & Co of Bayswater, Copperwaites of Fremantle, Simpson & Sons of Belmont and R. Pritchard of Mt Hawthorn, they were amongst those advertising as nurserymen and florists in the 1930s. By the mid 1940s, specialisation was beginning to appear, and the retail florist outlets began to outnumber the nurserymen. In 1936, there were fifty one nurserymen and seedsmen, and thirty five florists, listed in *Wise's Post Office Directory*. Ten years later, there were forty one nurserymen and sixty three florists.⁶³

Conversely, some nurserymen defined themselves as florists. Arthur Walters listed *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* under this category in Wise's Postal Directory. Judging by the addresses of the other florists in this category, most appear to be retailers, with only three located in metropolitan areas where they could be wholesale suppliers to the cut flower market.⁶⁴ However, because producers of this sort appear not to have advertised widely, it is difficult to confirm if the other florists were operating in similar fashion. If there were, they also kept a low profile as little, if anything appears to be known of them.⁶⁵

There is one nursery on the State Register, P3084 *Hamel Nursery* (1897). This is not comparable to *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* as it primarily supplied trees for commercial and ornamental planting schemes.⁶⁶ Of the eight other nurseries listed in the Heritage Council's database, only two were used for the production of cut flowers: P105001 Carpenes Home & Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda and P13139 Lander Farm, Gosnells.

Carpenes Home & Nursery (fmr) in Kalamunda was established in 1936 by Italian immigrants and produced flowers for the cut-flower market. Among the flowers it grew were tiger lilies, which were particularly popular in the inter-war period. The nursery was relocated in 1978 to Carrabooda and is still producing

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- 61 Information provided by John Viska, Garden History Society; *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1930s & 1940s trade listings; *The West Australian Gardener*, various advertisements in 1930s-1940s issues
- 62 Information provided by John Viska, Garden History Society; *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1930s & 1940s trade listings; *The West Australian Gardener*, various advertisements in 1930s-1940s issues
- 63 ibid
- 64 The Western Australian Directory [Wise's] 1947-1949, p 818 downloaded on 15 August 2008 from <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/1947.html>
- 65 John Viska *et al*, op cit.
- 66 Hamel Nursery – Assessment Documentation downloaded on 15 August 2008 from <http://register.heritage.wa.gov.au>

cut flowers in 2008.⁶⁷ It is not known what remains extant at the original site, but the house was earmarked for demolition in 1996.⁶⁸

Harold Lander established a flower and bulb nursery at Lander Farm, Gosnells in 1946 after serving in World War II. He initially planted poppies, chrysanthemums and carnations, but later moved into producing gladioli. These grew particularly well around Perth as the sandy soil provided them with the necessary drainage and the dry climate discouraged diseases.⁶⁹ Little evidence remains of the cut flower production activities at Lander Farm. Some of the distinctive brass sprinklers used to reticulate the nursery remain in the native bush that was planted by Harold's brother Charles after this area ceased being used to produce flowers. A vernacular shed that was used to store cut flowers remains next to the original house occupied by Harold. The frame is a mixture of iron piping, cut timber and branches and is enclosed by chicken wire on three sides. There is a corrugated iron sheet for a roof. The chicken wire shows remnants of vegetation that was used to clad the structure to keep the flowers cool before they were transported.⁷⁰

Flowers for sale were also cultivated in market gardens mainly because floriculture nurseries and market gardens both harvest a product with a short 'shelf-life' and a similar method of production, sale and distribution. There are five sites in the metropolitan area listed on the Heritage Council's database as market gardens. All are associated with the Chinese community although it is not known whether the Chinese also grew flowers as well as fruit and vegetables. None are on the State Register. Four are listed as sites only, implying there is no extant fabric. There is no information available about the fifth Chinese market garden site in Wanneroo, which forms part of the Yellagonga Regional Park.

Today, some market gardeners, such as those in Wanneroo, cultivate a small plot of chrysanthemums and annuals for commercial cut-flower production. However, floriculture has generally become a highly specialised operation utilising glasshouses for controlled cultivation.⁷¹

A good indication of the plants available in Western Australia at any particular time can be gained from the investigation of contemporary nursery catalogues. Bulbs were a major feature in these catalogues although they did not necessarily produce cut flowers. The 1939 Dawson Harrison catalogue listed twelve named varieties of daffodils while Wilson and Johns offered ten. They also offered Spanish and Dutch irises, lilies, as well as large numbers of named gladioli cultivars.⁷²

In the 1936 the *Western Australian Gardening Guide*, published by Wilson and Johns, three pages are devoted to the culture of daffodils with sections also dealing with the Spanish Iris, lilies and gladioli.⁷³ E.A. Hughes in his 1930s

67 Telephone interview by HCWA Officer, Penny O'Connor, with staff at Carpen Nursery, Carrabooda on 15 August 2008.

68 Heritage Council's database entry for P10501 Carpen's Home & Nursery (fmr), accessed 15 August 2008.

69 'The Harold Lander Story', produced for Gosnells Rotary Club, on HCWA file 13139.

70 Lander Farm – Draft Assessment Documentation, Heritage Council of Western Australia, June 2008.

71 Information provided by John Visca, op cit.

72 Dawson Harrison, 1939 *Seed and Plant Catalogue*, Daniels Print, Perth, 1939

73 Wilson and Johns, *The Western Australian Gardening Guide*, Mercantile Press, Fremantle, 1936.

publication *The Westralia Gardener* also provided practical growing advice on these plants as well as recommending certain cultivars.

An article in this magazine by Arthur Walters, the owner of the *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda*, describes the propagation and cultivation of Liliiums and also lists the plants available in Western Australia at the time.⁷⁴

Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda is rare as it contains original plants from the time it was established that illustrate the development of the floriculture industry in Western Australia.

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Interviews

Lorna May 15/3/1998 and 20/5/2000 re Nursery and Floristry trade in Perth circa 1930 to 1970.

Marie Parton, 15/5/2000 re Bulb growers in the Kalamunda district.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further site visits are recommended to determine the type and density of surviving flora at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda*.

Oak trees can only be fully identified by their acorns which appear in the spring. Visits during the flowering period of the Camellias (late winter/spring), Crepe Myrtles (spring) would confirm whether they have survived. Summer site visits would confirm whether the mulberry, quince and pear trees have also survived. Site visits during the flowering periods of main bulb species grown at *Floriculture Nursery (fmr), Kalamunda* (irises, liliiums and daffodils) would confirm the species in the rows that were evident on both sides of the bank.

The use of old West Australian nursery catalogues in conjunction with local horticultural clubs and the West Australian branch of the Australian Garden history might assist in identifying any unknown cultivars.

Further research may confirm the operation and location of a small gold mine at this location by Hugh Fraser between 1895 and 1909, and the extent and nature of any remains.

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Hughes, E.A., *The Westralia Gardener*, W.A. Provincial Press, Perth c 1930