

Heritage Significance Assessment, Dunara Reserve, Wentworth Street, Point Piper



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for
Woollahra Council

Final, 21 June 2018

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SPECIALISTS IN THE IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE



Report Register

The table below documents the development and issue of drafts and the final document titled Heritage Significance Assessment, Wentworth Street, Point Piper, prepared by Chris Betteridge, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd t/a Betteridge Heritage in accordance with the company's Quality Assurance Policy.

Issue No.	Description	Issue Date
1	Heritage Significance Assessment, Wentworth Street, Point Piper, 1 st draft	31 May 2018
2	Heritage Significance Assessment, Wentworth Street, Point Piper, 2 nd draft	15 June 2018
3	Heritage Significance Assessment, Wentworth Street, Point Piper, Final	21 June 2018

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Date	21 June 2018	Date:	21 June 2018

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Executive summary

Dunara Reserve, Wentworth Street, Point Piper, is a small remnant of the historic property 'Dunara' which was built by eminent doctor and sociologist Sir Charles Mackellar circa 1882 and was the birthplace of his daughter Dorothea Mackellar, the famous Australian poet. The reserve results from a 1956 subdivision of the 'Dunara' estate into 11 lots. Designated as Public Garden and Recreation Space, the reserve is owned by Woollahra Council.

The site contains a range of exotic and native trees including a mature specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) which is local heritage item No 277 on Schedule 5 in *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014* and is listed as a significant tree on public land in Woollahra Council's Significant Tree Register. The subdivision contains two other local heritage items – the house and interiors at 10 Dunara Gardens known as 'Dunara' (item No 276) and the house, interiors and grounds at 4 Dunara Gardens (item No 275). Another specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* and a specimen of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig), located on the adjoining site at 1 Wentworth Street, are listed as local heritage item (No 285). 'Dunara' is also listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

On 12 March 2018 Woollahra Council adopted a notice of motion in the following terms:

“THAT Council requests staff to prepare and submit a report including a heritage assessment and draft heritage inventory sheet for Dunara Reserve to the Urban Planning Committee to facilitate consideration of Dunara Reserve (and its elements) being:

1. *included in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan as a heritage item; and*
2. *listed as a heritage item of state significance on the NSW State Heritage Register.”*

Woollahra Council commissioned Chris Betteridge, Director, Betteridge Heritage to prepare an assessment of the heritage significance of Dunara Reserve, with the following brief:

1. Assess significance in compliance with the above resolution and in accordance with the 8-step assessment process in the *NSW Heritage Manual* and determine whether it is of local or State significance;
2. Prepare a State Heritage Inventory (SHI) form for the subject site if it is assessed to be of local significance; and,
3. Prepare a nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR) if the site is assessed to be of State significance.

Comprehensive analysis of documentary and physical evidence relating to 'Dunara' and Dunara Reserve, involving library and web-based research and site investigations has enabled an assessment of significance against the Heritage Council criteria which concludes that Dunara Reserve is of local heritage significance warranting its consideration for inclusion on Schedule 5 of *Woollahra LEP 2014*. However, the assessment concludes that the Reserve is not of State significance and therefore its nomination for SHR listing is not recommended.

A draft SHI form for Dunara Reserve, management recommendations and appendices are included.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Dunara Reserve, Wentworth Street, Point Piper, is a small remnant of the historic property 'Dunara' resulting from a 1956 subdivision of the estate into 11 lots. Designated as Public Garden and Recreation Space, the reserve is owned by Woollahra Council.

The site contains a range of exotic and native trees including a mature specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) which is local heritage item No 277 on Schedule 5 in *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014* and is listed as a significant tree on public land in Woollahra Council's Significant Tree Register. The subdivision contains two other local heritage items – the house and interiors at 10 Dunara Gardens known as 'Dunara' (item No 276) and the house, interiors and grounds at 4 Dunara Gardens (item No 275). Another specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* and a specimen of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig), located on the adjoining site at 1 Wentworth Street, are listed as local heritage item (No 285).

No 10 Dunara Gardens is also listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

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Following a select tender process, Woollahra Council commissioned Chris Betteridge, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd t/a Betteridge Heritage to prepare an assessment of the heritage significance of Dunara Reserve with the following brief:

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2. Prepare a State Heritage Inventory (SHI) form for the subject site if it is assessed to be of local significance; and,
3. Prepare a nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR) if the site is assessed to be of State significance.

1.2 Identification of the study site

Dunara Reserve is identified as Lot 11, DP 27451, Wentworth Street, Point Piper in the Woollahra local government area. The district context is shown in Figure 1 below and the local context in Figure 2.



Figure 1 The location of Dunara Reserve (coloured red) in the context of Point Piper. (Source: Woollahra Council)



Figure 2 The cadastral boundary of Dunara Reserve (edged red) in relation to adjoining residential development and road pattern. (Source: Woollahra Council)

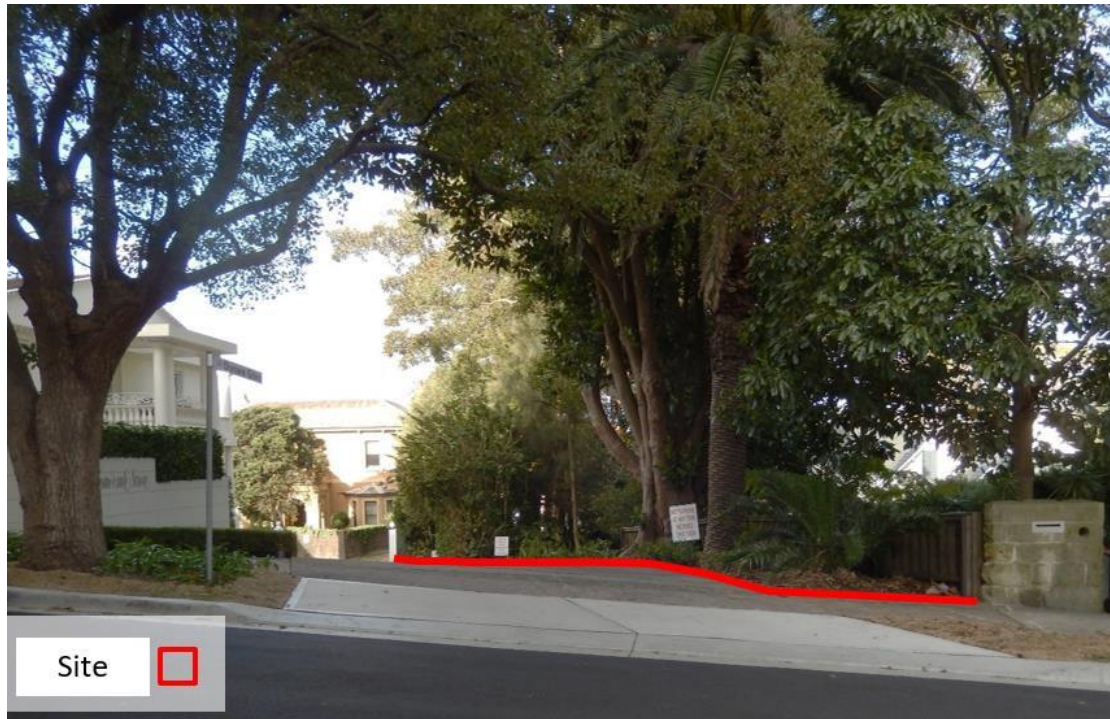


Figure 3 Dunara Reserve viewed from the carriageway of Wentworth street, looking east towards the house 'Dunara'. The Reserve is very narrow at its western end but splays out further down the slope. Pedestrian access from the street is difficult without intruding into Dunara Gardens, the road created in the 1956 subdivision which provides vehicular access to the majority of the 11 lots created from the former Dunara estate. The house 'Dunara' is visible at left of centre. (Source: Woollahra Council)

1.3 Identification and experience of the author

This heritage assessment has been prepared by Chris Betteridge BSc (Sydney), MSc (Museum Studies) (Leicester), AMA (London), MICOMOS, Director, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd t/a Betteridge Heritage, heritage consultants. Chris is a trained botanist with postgraduate qualifications in museum studies and extensive experience in heritage conservation. His background includes ten years as environmental and landscape specialist with the NSW planning agencies, advising the Heritage Council of NSW, and four years as Assistant Director (Community Relations) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. For the past 27 years he has been director of a consultancy specialising in the identification, assessment, management and interpretation of historic cultural landscapes.

1.4 Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their kind assistance in the preparation of this heritage assessment:

Margaret Betteridge, Director, Betteridge Heritage;

Chris Bluett, Manager Strategic Planning, Woollahra Municipal Council;

Jane Britten, Local Studies Librarian, Woollahra Council;

Cathy Colville, Strategic Heritage Officer, Planning and Development Division, Woollahra Council;

Kira Green, Administrative Officer, Planning and Development Division, Woollahra Council;

Barbara Swebeck, Local Studies Librarian, Woollahra Council;

Anne White, Acting Manager Strategic Planning, Planning and Development Division, Woollahra Council;

1.5 Methodology

This assessment was prepared in accordance with the 8-step process in the *NSW Heritage Manual*, as listed below.

- 1 Summarise what is known about the item.
- 2 Describe the previous and current uses of the item, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people.
- 3 Assess significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria.
- 4 Check whether a sound analysis of the item's heritage significance can be made.
- 5 Determine the item's level of significance i.e. local or state.
- 6 Prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance.
- 7 Obtain feedback from relevant information providers and other stakeholders.
- 8 Write up all the information gathered.

1.6 Limitations

The preparation of this assessment was based on research of the available documentary material and above-surface physical fabric within the time and budget and the availability of site survey information. Examination of Dorothea Mackellar's papers at the Mitchell Library requires permission from her estate through Curtis Brown publishers and was not possible within the timeframe for submission of the draft heritage assessment. These papers appear to contain some of Dorothea Mackellar's manuscripts, but the published extracts of her diaries were researched, and no mention of the area now known as Dunara Reserve was found.

No physical disturbance or intervention was carried out on any part of the site, except for limited sampling of vegetation for identification purposes. Comparative analysis was limited to properties of similar type and significance currently listed on heritage registers or otherwise known to the author.

1.7 Disclaimer and copyright

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2.0 Analysis of documentary evidence

This section provides a narrative history and thematic analysis of the historical records relating to the Dunara Estate and the subject site, drawn from Woollahra Council and other sources.

2.1 Evolution of the cultural landscape

2.1.1 Some definitions

“A cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a culture group. Culture is the agent; the natural area is the medium. The cultural landscape the result.”

- Carl Sauer¹

“Landscape is never simply a natural space, a feature of the natural environment. Every landscape is the place where we establish our own human organization of space and time”.

- John B. Jackson²

Cultural landscapes by their name imply human intervention but they may also include substantial natural elements. “They can present a cumulative record of human activity and land use in the landscape, and as such can offer insights into the values, ideals and philosophies of the communities forming them, and of their relationship to the place. Cultural landscapes have a strong role in providing the distinguishing character of a locale, a character that might have varying degrees of aesthetic quality, but, regardless, is considered important in establishing the communities’ sense of place.”³.

In recent years the Heritage Council of New South Wales has identified the depletion of cultural landscapes as a major issue threatening the cultural values of our cities and requested that the NSW Heritage Office (now Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage) address this issue. There has been ongoing criticism in the media and in the wider community over the encroachment of urban development on some of Sydney’s important Colonial and Victorian homesteads and their landscape settings. In response to this threat, the Heritage Council provided funding to the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) for a study of ‘Colonial Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden.’⁴

In 2003 a charette of cultural landscape professionals hosted by the NSW Heritage Office debated the issues, identified constraints and opportunities and made recommendations for developing sustainable measures to facilitate the protection of important cultural landscapes in the State. In the Campbelltown City local government area, the public outcry over the loss of setting for significant properties such as Glen Alpine and Blair Athol led Council to commission a consultant study of that area’s cultural landscapes.

A 2010 publication by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) provides guidelines for managing cultural landscapes. It defines the

¹ Sauer 1963, p.343

² Jackson 1984, p.156

³ Pearson, Michael and Sullivan, Sharon (1995), *Looking After Heritage Places*, Melbourne University Press.

⁴ Britton, Geoffrey and Morris, Colleen (2000), ‘Colonial Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden’, unpublished draft report.

cultural landscape concept as emphasising “the landscape-scale of history and the connectivity between people, places and heritage items. It recognises the present landscape is the product of long-term and complex relationships between people and the environment. On any given area of land, it is likely that some historical activity will have taken place. Evidence of that activity may be detectable in the vegetation or in landscape modifications as well as in archaeological evidence, historical documents or people’s stories. Some pasts have ‘touched the landscape only lightly’, while some places of historical activity are marked by imposing built structures or are commemorated for their association with important events or people.

For the purposes of the DECCW guide, cultural landscapes are defined as:

“... those areas which clearly represent or reflect the patterns of settlement or use of the landscape over a long time, as well as the evolution of cultural values, norms and attitudes toward the land.”

The elements of a cultural landscape are illustrated below;

Landscape = Nature + People
Landscape = The Past + The Present
Landscape = Places + Values

Figure 4 The Elements of a Cultural Landscape. (Source: Diagram after Guilfoyle 2006:2, based on Phillips 2002:5)

The DECCW Guidelines emphasise that cultural heritage management has, until recently, conceptualised heritage mainly as isolated sites or objects. For example, a hut, woolshed, fence, ground tank, bridge, scarred tree, grave, orchard or piece of machinery. A site-based approach is thus an ‘easy’ concept for land managers and heritage practitioners as it supports separating the natural and cultural for management purposes. However, this site-based approach has the unfortunate effect of reinforcing the notion of culture and nature as spatially separate and thus able to be managed independently. In a national park or nature reserve context, cultural heritage sites are seen as isolated points or pathways that are set in a natural landscape. The work of nature conservation can go on around these sites. The authors of the guidelines argue that the natural environment is part of these sites. Similarly, in an environment that has been highly modified by industrial activity in the past, the natural values may have been almost obliterated but can be recovered through well-planned rehabilitation measures. A cultural landscape approach offers an opportunity to integrate natural and cultural heritage conservation by seeing culture and nature as interconnected dimensions of the same space.

2.1.2 The landscape of Point Piper prior to European settlement

Apart from the belt of low-lying land extending from Rose Bay to the sandhills of Bondi, the Woollahra local government area is predominantly an area of sandstone slopes and gullies. On the more sheltered harbourside hillsides such as that on which ‘Dunara’ is located, tall woodland and forest would have existed prior to European settlement, with tree species such as *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked

Apple), *Eucalyptus resinifera* (Red Mahogany), *E. tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum), *E. botryoides* (Bangalay) and *E. haemastoma* (Scribbly Gum).⁵

2.1.3 Aboriginal occupation of the Point Piper area

The traditional Aboriginal owners of much of the Woollahra district were the Cadigal clan, while the harbour area around Watsons Bay and South Head was inhabited by the Birrabirragal clan. Both these clans belonged to the coastal Dharug language group and the Eora nation. The devastating impact of European settlement after 1788, felt particularly in the effects of introduced diseases such as smallpox, resulted in the eventual disappearance of the local Aboriginal population. While there is limited information on the lives of the Cadigal and Birrabirragal at Woollahra, some of their heritage is preserved in the form of rock art, shell middens and the Sydney Aboriginal language.⁶

Larmer⁷ reported the Aboriginal name for Point Piper as 'Willárrá'. Earlier, Wentworth (1801-1825) had listed 'Bungarong' against Point Piper. However, 'Pannerong', probably a variation in writing 'Bungarung', was recorded more than 100 years earlier in Vocabulary⁸ and Collins⁹ as the name for Rose Bay. Point Piper is part of the western headland of Rose Bay, which may be the reason for Wentworth's association.

The name 'Willárrá', if a written variant of 'Woo-lā-rā', may have referred to a larger area than just Point Piper¹⁰, as the latter (Woo-lā-rā) was recorded as the name for 'The Look-out'¹¹ which was at Outer South Head¹², known today as Dunbar Head.¹³

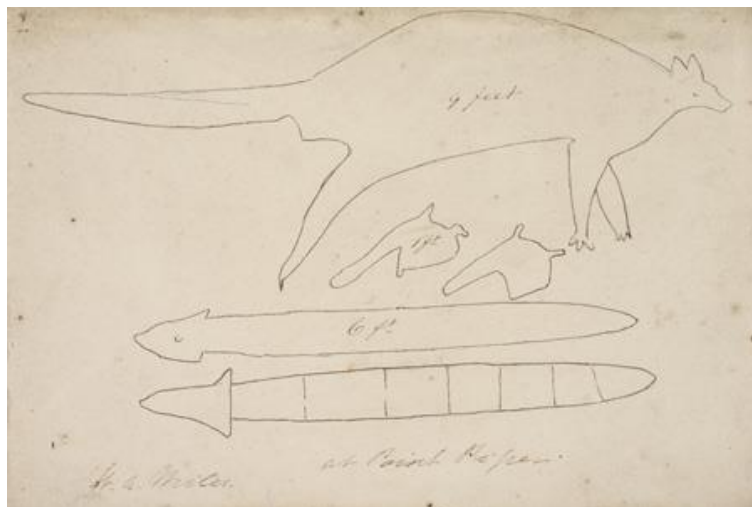


Figure 5 Drawings of Aboriginal carvings at Point Piper, 1845 by W. A. Miles (1798-1851). Ink and wash. From Miscellaneous papers relating to Aborigines, c. 1839-1871. Ref: A 610, pp. 199, 201, 207, 209

⁵ Benson & Howell 1990, p.99

⁶ 'A brief history of Woollahra' accessed at https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/a_brief_history_of_woollahra

⁷ Larmer 1832: 35, 1832 [1898: 228]

⁸ King 1790

⁹ Collins 1798 [1975], pp. 489-490

¹⁰ Watson 1918: p.374

¹¹ Southwell 1788 [1893], p. 699

¹² Bradley 1786-1792 [1969]: Chart 6

¹³ <http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/p17331/html/ch01.xhtml?referer=81&page=9>

In July 1845, the travelling artist George French Angas (1822-1886) and Sydney Police Inspector W. Augustus Miles (1798-1851), an amateur anthropologist, persuaded King Bungaree's widow, Cora Gooseberry, who was camped by the creek at Camp Cove, to show them Aboriginal engravings at North Head. In return she received flour and tobacco. Miles copied the designs at South and Middle Heads, while Angas's drawings were reproduced in his *Savage Life and Scenes*, London, 1847. At Point Piper, the two artists copied dozens of engravings of male figures, shields, whales, fish and kangaroos, now destroyed.¹⁴

The relatively sheltered, east-facing slopes of Point Piper where 'Dunara' is now located, would have provided good vantage points over Rose Bay and the proximity to the Harbour would have afforded Aboriginal people easy access to food sources in the bay and along the shoreline. The kangaroos in the Aboriginal carvings also suggest the area provided food in the form of terrestrial fauna.

2.1.4 Early European settlement of Point Piper

Point Piper is named for Captain John Piper, a naval officer who became one of the richest men in Sydney as official collector of customs and harbour dues. On a parcel of 76 hectares granted to him by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1820, Piper built a mansion 'Henrietta Villa' at Point Piper, the house named after the second name of Macquarie's wife, Elizabeth. The house quickly became the most prestigious social venue in town and Piper entertained so extravagantly that he earned the title 'prince of Australia'. However, Piper's flamboyant and extravagant lifestyle exceeded even his resources and he was soon deeply in debt. In 1827 it became apparent that he had embezzled £13,000 from the customs revenues which, together with other debts, amounted to millions in modern values. Governor Darling, who arrived in the colony in 1825, dismissed Piper for neglect of his duties. Deprived of his lucrative post, Piper was soon in serious financial trouble. The mortified Piper made a curiously grand suicide attempt, having himself rowed out into the harbour and, to the strains of his naval band, jumping overboard. He was rescued by his boatmen and survived to retire to a more modest rural life. He died a poor man in Bathurst in 1851 at the age of 78.¹⁵

2.1.5 Point Piper Estate

In the 1820s, business partners Daniel Cooper (1785-1853) and Solomon Levey began acquiring the Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay, Point Piper and Woollahra parts of the substantial Point Piper Estate comprising 1130 acres that had been amassed by Captain John Piper since 1816. Their title to the land was confirmed in 1830 and it became the sole property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. The Vacluse part of Piper's estate outside the Point was bought by William Charles Wentworth. On Cooper's death in 1853, his nephew, also Daniel Cooper (later Sir Daniel Cooper), born in Lancashire in 1821, was appointed trustee of the Point Piper Estate. In 1856 Cooper began a great mansion called 'Woollahra House' on Point Piper, on the site of Piper's 'Henrietta Villa'. In the same year Cooper became first Speaker of the new Legislative Assembly. He resigned from the Speakership in 1860 and returned to England a year later, became the Agent-General for NSW, was made the First Baronet of Woollahra in 1863, and died in 1902.

'Woollahra House' was not completed until 1883 by Cooper's son, William, who had purchased the grant from his brother for £10,000¹⁶. The younger William had "picked up his father's ambition to have the finest garden in Sydney around Woollahra

¹⁴ <http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/events/exhibitions/2006/eora/images/s16.htm>

¹⁵ Kennedy & Kennedy 1982, p.149

¹⁶ https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/16275/Woollahra_House.pdf

House”.¹⁷ The first subdivision on the Point took place around 1880, and although the estate was progressively subdivided after William’s departure for England in 1888, it retained impressive grounds laid out with specimen trees and flower beds in expansive lawns, in a Gardenesque rather than Italianate style.¹⁸ ‘Woollahra House’ was suggested as a replacement for Government House (then occupied by the new Governor-General) around 1901 but the offer was not taken up by the government and the estate was progressively sold off and the house was demolished in 1929.¹⁹

2.1.6 The Mackellar family and their tenants at ‘Dunara’

Scotsman John Mackellar married Euphemia Jackson and the couple emigrated with their family to Australia from Dundee, Scotland in 1839. Their three sons were Keith, Charles and Frederick. Frederick (died 1863), physician and his wife Isabella, née Robertson, widow of William McGarvie had one son, Charles Kinnaird Mackellar (1844-1926) who was born in Sydney and educated at Sydney Grammar School and the University of Glasgow medical school, graduating in 1871. He returned to Australia and practised in Sydney, becoming a noted physician and sociologist.²⁰

In 1877 Charles Mackellar married Marion Isobel Buckland (1854-1933) and the couple had four children: Keith; Eric; Isobel Marion Dorothea (1885-1968) and Malcolm. After the birth of their first two sons, the family’s residence in Macquarie Street, Sydney became too small and they chose a site of five acres (2 hectares) at Point Piper to build a gentleman’s residence.

‘Dunara’ was built in 1882-83, the name of the house apparently being Aboriginal for ‘gunyah on the slope of a hill’.²¹ At the time the house was built, ‘Wentworth Street was still a bush track, and does not appear as a road until 1894’.²² As little as was practical of the native growth was cleared for the house, servants’ quarters, coach house, necessary outbuilding and gardens.²³ There were wrought iron gates and fences [presumably to the Wentworth Street frontage], a driveway lined with *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel) and a fishpond with fountain.²⁴

An 1887 photograph shows the bushland surrounding ‘Dunara’ (downhill to its east, south and to the north), with the house on a cleared rise above Rose Bay.²⁵ Dorothea Mackellar was born at ‘Dunara’ on 1 July 1885 and spent her youth there on and off until 1908. Her two older brothers were delighted with their baby sister. “It was almost as good as having huge expanses of garden and bush with the beach at the bottom; almost as good as having the horses on the property instead of being kept at a livery stable in the city; almost as good as being able to keep a dog or two.”²⁶

‘Dunara’ appears to have been occupied consistently by the Mackellar family from c.1885 to c.1900. After the turn of the century, the Mackellars travelled widely and during some of their absences in other houses or abroad, the house was apparently leased to several other families. In 1901, ‘Dunara’ was occupied by Monsieur and

¹⁷ Morris 2008, p.88

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Spindler, nd.

²⁰ Australian Dictionary of Biography/Dorothea Mackellar obituary, Sydney Morning Herald

²¹ Anderson 2008, pp.14-15

²² Griffiths 1970, p.68

²³ Howley 1989, p.21

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Sydney Morning Herald 1978

²⁶ Howley 1989, p.23

Madame Brasier de Thuy²⁷, a couple who are mentioned in Nesta Griffith's history as 'delightful' and 'well-loved wherever they went'. The alphabetical listing in *Sands* gives M. Brasier de Thuy's full title as Principle Agent for *Australasia Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes*, Queen's Corner, 57 Pitt Street, Sydney. The French couple were preparing to move out of 'Dunara' in late March of 1901 to take up residence at 'Arlington' in Edgecliff Road, which they had leased from a Mr Machardy.²⁸

Mackellar is again listed in *Sands* as the occupant of 'Dunara' from 1902 to 1904. The family was still reeling from the death of their oldest son and Sir Charles' heir, Keith, who was a second lieutenant in the Australian Volunteer Horse Squadron and was killed in action in South Africa on 11 July 1890, right at the end of the Boer War hostilities.

The 1905 issue of *Sands* directory shows C Carlisle Taylor in residence at 'Dunara'. Mr Taylor was evidently the General Manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of United States, which operated from the Equitable Building, George Street, Sydney. He appears to have stayed at 'Dunara' for only one year.²⁹

The issues of *Sands* for 1906, 1907 and 1908 show the Hon. Charles Mackellar again at 'Dunara' while those for 1909, 1910 and 1911 list George Henry Greene, a fellow MLC, in residence. In her biography of Dorothea Mackellar³⁰, Hawley implies that 'Dunara' was still under a lease to other parties in 1908 and the Mackellars stayed for a while at the Hotel Australia and later went to Buckland Chambers, 183 Liverpool Street, Sydney, where the two top floors were residential and used by members of the family a sort of townhouse when needed.³¹

Information on Greene in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* would suggest that he was not permanently resident at 'Dunara', since during the period for which he is listed at Point Piper he was apparently engaged in building "an ornate Edwardian mansion 'landra'", his property near Grenfell in southwestern NSW.³² The Hon. G H Greene MLC and Mrs Greene do seem to have used their time at 'Dunara' and the facilities the property offered to advantage in snaring eligible naval officers for two of their daughters. On a Thursday evening in 1909, the Greens entertained several guests at "a charming dance" at 'Dunara'.³³

"The Chinese lanterns looked beautiful in the grounds, and a carpeted pathway led from the ball-room to the supper-room."

In October 1909 their younger daughter, Gladys Gwendoline Greene was engaged to Flag Lieutenant F C Fisher, right-hand-man to Admiral Sir Richard Poore, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy's Australia Station.³⁴ The elder daughter was already married to another naval officer. Unfortunately, George Greene died on 22 December 1911 and was buried at 'landra'.

²⁷ *Sands* Directory 1901

²⁸ *Australian Town & Country Journal* 23 March 1901, p.45, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article71464994.pdf

²⁹ Letter from Jane Britten, Local History Librarian, Woollahra Council to Mrs Farkas, 23 September 1992

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p.63

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Letter from Jane Britten, Local History Librarian, Woollahra Council to Mrs Farkas, 23 September 1992

³³ *Figaro* 29 September 1910, p.5, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article84445292.pdf

³⁴ *Punch* 28 October 1909, p.38 accessed at nla.news-article176029229.3.pdf; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Richard_Poore,_4th_Baronet



Figure 6 The Mackellar family outside the summer house at 'Dunara' circa late 1890s. Keith and Eric standing; L to R: Malcolm, Mrs Mackellar, Dr Mackellar, Dorothea (seated). (Source: Mitchell Library)

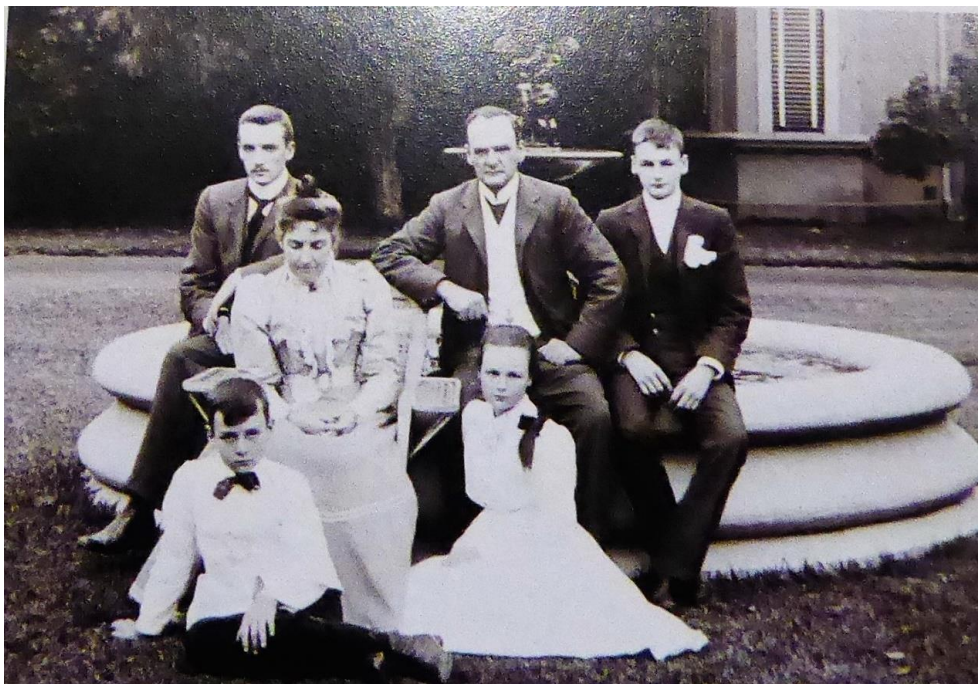


Figure 7 The Mackellar family circa mid- to late 1890s by the fountain and fishpond in the carriage loop at 'Dunara', showing the dense plantings to the southwest of the house, including a specimen of *Araucaria* sp. at far left. Dorothea Mackellar is seated on the grass in front of her father. (Source: Mitchell Library)

Sands for 1912 indicates 'Dunara' was occupied by Mr and Mrs C B Pharazyn who, in October that year hosted a dinner party at the Hotel Australia in honour of Mr and

Mrs G W Johnston of Wellington, New Zealand.³⁵ In mid-1914 'Dunara' was taken by Mrs Johnstone, a well-known identity in horse-racing circles from Hyman, New Zealand. She was visited at 'Dunara' in June that year by her mother Mrs Baldwin.³⁶



Photo: Falk Studios, 164 Pitt-street.

Mrs. C. B. Pharazyn,

Wife of Mr. C. B. Pharazyn, of Dunara, Point Piper,
Sydney.

Figure 8 Photograph of Mrs C B Pharazyn, wife of Mr C B Pharazyn of 'Dunara', Point Piper, Sydney. (Source: *Sydney Mail* 25 June 1913, p.20 accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article158475508>)

³⁵ *The Sun* 6 October 1912, p.21, accessed on Trove at [nla.news-article228834193.3.pdf](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228834193.3.pdf)

³⁶ *Sunday Times* (Sydney) 21 June 1914, p.7 accessed on Trove at [nla.news-article120365093.3.pdf](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article120365093.3.pdf)

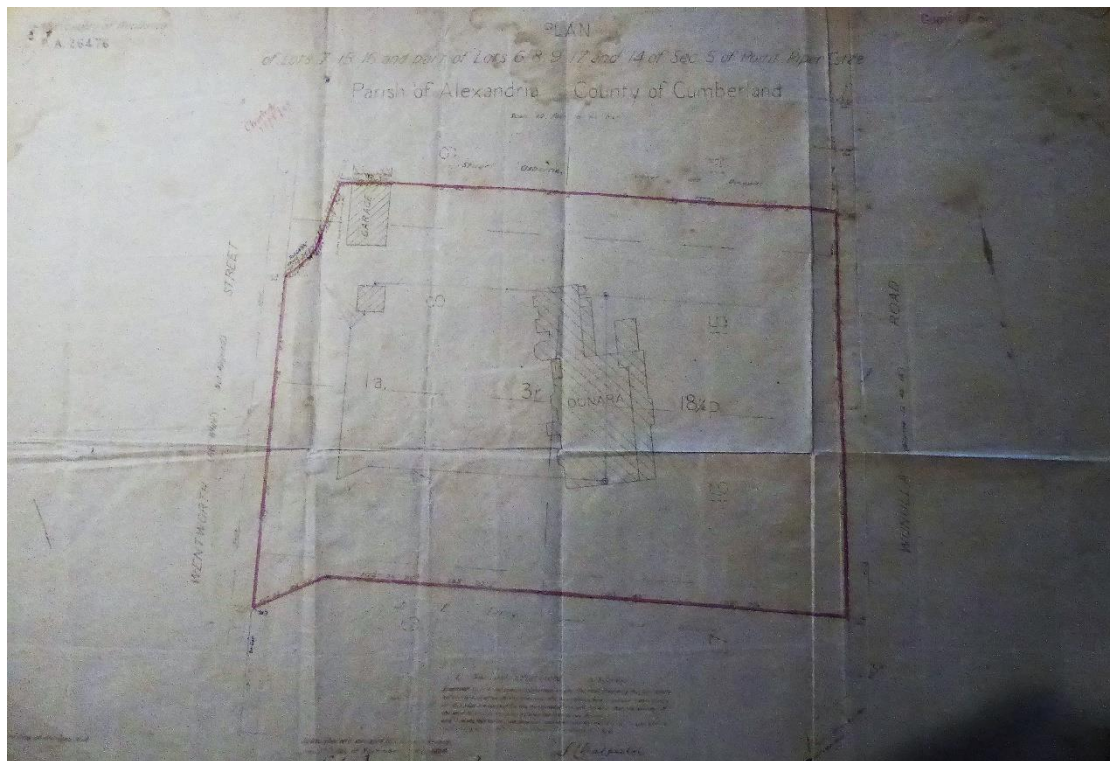


Figure 9 A faded plan of Lots 7, 15, 16 and part of Lots 6, 8, 9, 17 and 14 of Section 5 of Point Piper Estate, drawn 19 November 1924 and charted 13 May 1925, showing the house 'Dunara' and two outbuildings, including the garage in the northwestern corner. (Source: Municipality of Woollahra PA 26476, filed at Woollahra Library under Suburbs: Point Piper 4)



Figure 10 Enlargement of part of a 1930 aerial photograph, showing the Dunara Estate, within the black oval. The boundary plantings in the garden were already very dense by that date. (Source: Map 3418 Sydney 20 January 1930 print 501)

In the second half of 1915, Dorothea seems to have been at 'Dunara' again. An entry in her published diaries at that time headed 'Wednesday September 19', contains the following;

"On Tuesday night a terrific South-east gale began. It raged all Wednesday and did about £20,000 worth of damage in the eastern suburbs alone. I couldn't sleep for the howling of the wind and the pistol shots of my canvas [blind], but it was a nice cosy exhilarating contradictory night – when one didn't think of those at sea. Trees were torn down in all directions. It was the worst gale for very many years, and I wrote to Pat and did flowers (battered they were, and I was battered getting them). And Dorothy came in the afternoon. It was nice to have her".³⁷

Another entry, dated "Dunara Wednesday – Saturday December 8-11", reads:

"There was a cool change on Tuesday night and consequently one arrived sick and shivering, but it was nice to be home.....Saturday was a beautiful summer day, warm and cool blue and gold – green with the coral trees flaming everywhere so splendidly that it was like a thousand trumpets. As I walked down Wolseley Road I had a strange swinging feeling – and then suddenly I realised what it was – that if there were no War (What an if!) I'd be happy. Not for years have I had that."³⁸

Sir Charles Mackellar was reported to be ill at 'Dunara' in February 1916.³⁹ Lady Mackellar and Dorothea Mackellar of 'Dunara', Point Piper made donations to a Sydney fund to buy a battleplane for the war effort in August 1916.⁴⁰

Dorothea's poem 'In a southern garden', published circa 1918, may have been inspired by her times at 'Dunara' and the references to Camphor Laurel and the water 'at the garden's lowest fringe' tend to support this theory.

*When the tall bamboos are clicking to the restless little breeze,
And bats begin their jerky skimming flight,
And the creamy scented blossoms of the dark pittosporum trees,
Grow sweeter with the coming of the night.*

*And the harbour in the distance lies beneath a purple pall,
And nearer, at the garden's lowest fringe,
Loud the water soughs and gurgles 'mid the rocks below the wall,
Dark-heaving, with a dim uncanny tinge*

*Of a green as pale as beryls, like the strange faint-coloured flame
That burns around the Women of the Sea:
And the strip of sky to westward which the camphor laurels frame,*

³⁷ Brunson 1990, pp.175-76

³⁸ Ibid., p.184

³⁹ Mirror of Australia, 26 February 1916, p.4 (20, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article104644309>)

⁴⁰ Sun (Sydney) 20 August 1916, p.20, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223378789>

Has turned to ash-of-rose and ivory—

*And a chorus rises valiantly from where the crickets hide,
Close-shaded by the balsams drooping down—
It is evening in a garden by the kindly water-side,
A garden near the lights of Sydney town!*

The Mackellar family was back at 'Dunara' during the later war years 1917-18⁴¹ but in September 1918 they were preparing to leave Point Piper to take up residence at Warrawee.⁴² Sir Charles Mackellar had suffered a bout of pleurisy in 1916 and after World War I it was obvious something had to be done to get him away from the city and negotiations were begun through the family's lawyers regarding the sale of 'Dunara'.

2.1.7 The Kater family buy 'Dunara'

Circa September 1919 'Dunara' was sold to medical practitioner, merino sheep breeder and politician, Dr (later Sir) Norman Kater and his wife Jean Kater (née Mackenzie) after they had sold their property 'Nyrang' near Molong.⁴³ They also had a property 'Eenaweena' at Warren, presumably part of his family's Mumblebone stud. In 1924 Dr Kater inherited Mount Broughton near Moss Vale, where he spent most weekends. In November 1929, the Katers held a reception at 'Dunara' for the wedding of their daughter Mary to Douglas Tooth.⁴⁴ The garden was being prepared as a bower for the reception.⁴⁵

2.1.8 The Depression years

In June 1930 it was reported that a son had been born to Mr and Mrs Ranald Munro of 'Dunara', Point Piper.⁴⁶ In December 1932, Australia was still in the grip of the Great Depression and the Sydney real estate market remained inactive. However, estate agents Raine and Horne Ltd had 'Dunara' listed for sale by auction on 15 December that year, with the property described thus:

"Point Piper, 'Dunara', 3 Wentworth-street, residence of about 17 rooms, with tennis court, garage and chauffeur's quarters."⁴⁷

⁴¹ Information provided to Mr Robin Brampton by Libby Watters, Woollahra Local History Centre in November 2010

⁴² *Sunday Times* (Sydney) 8 September 1918, p.14, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article123129016

⁴³ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kater-sir-norman-william-6896>

⁴⁴ *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 16 November 1929, p.14, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article180088210.3.pdf

⁴⁵ *The Daily Telegraph* 7 November 1929 p. 22, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article246819509>

⁴⁶ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 June 1930, p. 10, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16704541>

⁴⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 December 1932, p.11, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article28030115

The best bid was £6,500 and negotiations were proceeding for the sale of the property at a figure in advance of this.⁴⁸

The SHR listing has the property sold to a Mr Michaelis in 1931 but perhaps it was 1932 or 1933. The SHR listing also records alterations carried out by architect G Keesing in 1933. These may be the alterations and additions carried out by builders R Wall & Son for Michaelis and Ors at 3 Wentworth Street.⁴⁹

George Michaelis was in residence in 1935 when he wrote to Council of an 'objectionable smell' suffered at the house arising from the harbour below. The death of Mr George I Michaelis at his residence 'Dunara', Wentworth Street, Point Piper on 30 July 1936 was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.⁵⁰

2.1.9 'Dunara' during World War II

From February 1943 Dunara was occupied by the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF).⁵¹

Spending their first weekend at Dunara, lovely old Point Piper home, CO Waafs are acquainted with their new barracks and its' charming grounds. Lawns overlooking the Harbor will make a perfect setting for 6 am physical exercises. After examining the tennis court, the girls are eagerly awaiting arrival of the net. Seven airy dormitories and a mosquito-proof balcony provide the sleeping accommodation, and mess-room and recreation hall open on to a wide terrace. Wireless and gramophone will be installed for the "moving-in" party to be held shortly, but the girls are also -hopeful that some kind benefactor will bestow a piano. Ex-dress designer Corporal J. Zahara is .in charge of the household at Dunara.

A photograph accompanying the above article showed ACW's Belly Margetts and Zoie Case with Cpl. J. Zahara admiring the waterlilies in the fishpond at 'Dunara' but the image could not be copied from Trove.

To mark the second anniversary of the formation of the WAAAFs, Honorary Commandant Lady Gowrie sent messages of greetings and congratulations, a church service followed by a dinner was held at 'Dunara'⁵² and a Mothers' Day party was held at 'Dunara' on Sunday 14 March 1943.⁵³ On 14 March 1945, RAAF airmen attended a dinner dance at 'Dunara' to help WAAAFs celebrate the fourth anniversary of their organisation.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 1932, p. 10, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16938715>

⁴⁹ Application 1933/20

⁵⁰ *Sydney Morning Herald* 31 July 1936, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17256510>

⁵¹ *Sun*, 14 February 1943, p. 8, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17840841>

⁵² *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 March 1943, p. 3, accessed on Trove at

⁵³ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 March 1943, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17840486>

⁵⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 March 1945, p. 6, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17935438>

In March 1946, the continued occupation by the RAAF of several stately homes in Point Piper, including 'Kilmory', 'Craig-y-mor', 'Dunara', 'Mount Luano', 'Linlithgow', 'Hughendon' and 'Redleaf' was causing concern, labelled as a scandalous waste of money when accommodation in more suitable military camps was available.

'Dunara' was described as having "an ornamental fountain playing in the centre of a lawn around which sweep car drives to the stately entrance" and providing "restful quarters and messes for members of the WAAAF".⁵⁵ A headline in the *Sydney Sun* described the occupied houses at Point Piper as an "RAAF Shangri La".⁵⁶ The paper's reporter stated:

"While thousands of families' lives have been disrupted by the housing shortage, RAAF personnel work in a Shangri-La atmosphere in seven large Point Piper homes. These homes, with 140 rooms, would provide between 30 and 40 flats if they were subdivided.

He used the telephone in each of the seven houses without challenge and claimed most of the houses had three bathrooms and bedrooms two to three times larger than the bedrooms in most houses. The same article claimed that Woollahra Municipal Council had "outspokenly favored [sic] the sub-division of large houses into flats."⁵⁷ Forty women's organisations asked the Army and air Ministers to make these mansions available as hostels for women.⁵⁸

The following month, 'Dunara' was reported in the press as possibly becoming a guest house.⁵⁹ By June 1946, the RAAF had decided to move out of these mansions.⁶⁰

"Personnel of ' R.A.A.F. Headquarters, Eastern Area, and other Sydney units. expect to be in their new quarters at Bradfield Park by July 1. At present Eastern Area occupies several mansions at Point Piper: Linlithgow, Kilmory, Craig-y-moor. Hughenden. Redleaf. Dunara, and Mount Lonana. The R.A.A.F. will maintain guards at the homes until they are vacated."

⁵⁵ *Sun*, 10 March 1946, p. 7, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228799656>

⁵⁶ *Sun*, 14 March 1946, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228791327>

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ *Sun*, 17 March 1946, p. 5, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228797929>

⁵⁹ *Northern Star* (Lismore), 6 April 1946, p. 5, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article99111214>

⁶⁰ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 June 1946, p. 4, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17987345>



Figure 11 Vertical aerial photo of part of Point Piper in 1943, showing approximate boundaries of Dunara Estate at that time, edged red, with features arrowed black. Plantings along the southern and western boundaries and in the centre of the estate were dense at this date. The tennis court and adjoining area east of the house and the steep slope leading down to Wunulla Road allowed extensive views over Rose Bay. (Source: <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>)

2.1.10 ‘Dunara’ after World War II

In November 1948 it was reported that the Sydney Young Men’s Hebrew Association (YMHA) had recently taken possession of ‘Dunara’.⁶¹

*“At the moment the building has only been leased, and its selling is still subject to the consideration of the Treasury.’ Tentative plans for the property include its immediate use for *‘Y’ and communal functions: This building is mainly intended to become a centre for ‘Y’ youth. Ultimately a full-scale youth and communal centre, which will cater for the most modern requirements, will be established. The building was taken over as a guest house and will still be run as such for bona fide travellers. No structural alterations will be made until the housing shortage has been alleviated. It is planned to build tennis basketball and handball courts, a swimming pool, and bowling green. A hobby section will also be included. It is intended, to establish the best Jewish reference library in the southern hemi sphere. This will be done immediately; Social functions, such as weddings, bar mitzvahs, etc., will be catered for shortly, and many other developments are envisaged.”*

The Young Men’s Hebrew Association purchased ‘Dunara’ from the Michaelis family in 1949⁶² and proposed to subdivide the property. In January 1950 the NSW Board of Jewish Education announced that religious education classes would resume at several venues including the Rose Bay Centre at ‘Dunara’, Point Piper.⁶³ In May 1956, Woollahra Council reported in the Council minutes that tentative plans had been submitted for a ‘proposed subdivision of the property ‘Dunara’, 3 Wentworth

⁶¹ *Hebrew Standard of Australasia*, 25 November 1948, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131102960>

⁶² 1949 Woollahra Municipal Council Rate Book

⁶³ *Hebrew Standard of Australasia*, 19 January 1950, p. 5, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131105917>

Street, Point Piper (S/4012). The applicant was to be advised that 'favourable consideration will be given to the proposal subject to the proposed public garden and recreation space to be dedicated to Council being increased to a minimum of 4,000 square feet with a suggestion that such space be provided from Lot 9 of the proposed subdivision',⁶⁴



Figure 12 Plan of the 1956 subdivision of the Dunara Estate, showing the house on a much-reduced curtilage as Lot 10 and Dunara Reserve as Lot 11. (Source: Woollahra Council Library)

Council then approved the application in July 1956 with the engineer reporting "The survey plans agree substantially with the tentative plans previously submitted. Public garden and recreation space has been increased to 4,219 square feet, and whilst the

⁶⁴ WMC minutes 11 June 1956, pp.355-6

right-of-way will be private property, some drainage work should be constructed to convey water from driveway to Wunulla Road".⁶⁵

The 1955 valuation lists of the NSW Department of the Valuer General record that the 'Dunara' property had been transferred to Claude Edward Fortescue and on 19 November 1956 Emil E J Ford & Co, advised Council that they acted for C E Fortescue in the subdivision of the Du-Nara [sic] Gardens Estate.⁶⁶ Mr Fortescue was described as a wholesale butcher of 'Kiallacourt', Plumer Road, Rose Bay.⁶⁷

The valuations further record the transfers of the various allotments of the Dunara Estate in 1956 and 1957. The transfer of 15 ½ perches from the Dunara estate to Woollahra Council is recorded with the transfer number T2/57.⁶⁸ The 1957 lists record that Woollahra Council was the owner of 15 ½ perches with 8'10" front – described as 'public garden and recreation space'.⁶⁹

The 1987 Heritage Branch report recommending a PCO over 'Dunara' states that 'Dunara' was purchased by a Mr Plowman in 1957 and that sympathetic modifications to the house were made by Prof. Leslie Wilkinson that year. Council's records of building applications for Wentworth Street in 1957 show alterations being carried out to Lot 10B by Prof. Wilkinson for C E Fortescue but the lot number is crossed out and a penciled notation says "see No. 8 Wunulla Road"⁷⁰. 'Dunara' is not mentioned in Falkiner's book on the works of Wilkinson.⁷¹



Figure 13 Panorama from New South Head Road above Vaucluse looking west across Shark Island to the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1968. The Cook's Pine trees prominent in this photo demonstrate the visual prominence and aesthetic significance of this species in the Woollahra cultural landscape. (Source: Mourot 1969, p.128; Photographer John Early, Michael Elton or Barry Ward)

⁶⁵ Ibid., 9 July 1956, p.412

⁶⁶ WMC Minutes 26 November 1956, pp.691-2

⁶⁷ V G Valuation list of 1955

⁶⁸ Letter from Libby Watters to Mr Robert Brampton, November 2010

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Application 1957/152

⁷¹ Falkiner et al. 1982



Figure 14 The portico on the western front of 'Dunara' in 1968. The foliage at right may be from a specimen of *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) reported to have been growing in the garden but dead by 2006. (Photo courtesy of H Ciddor, in Hawley 1989)

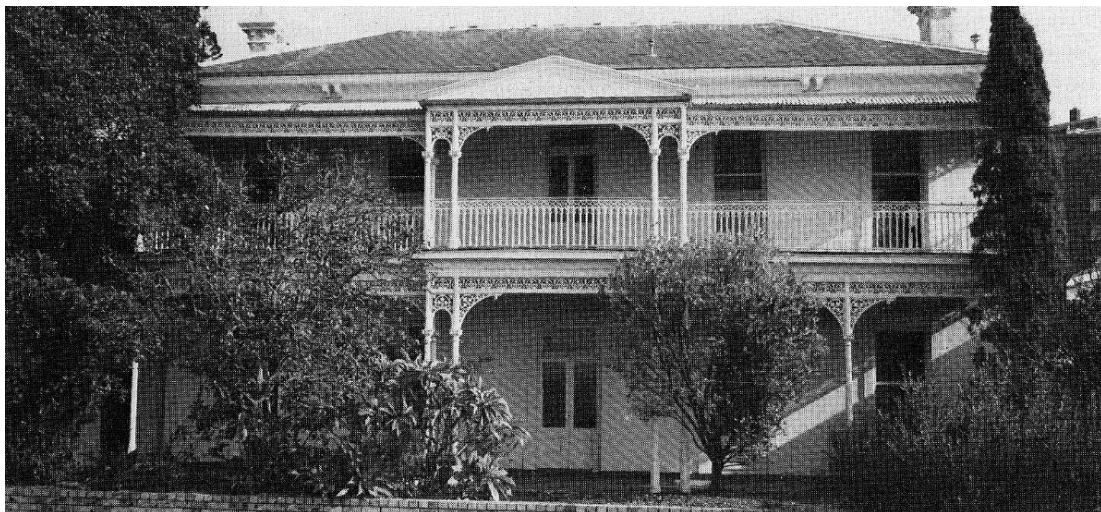


Figure 15 The eastern elevation of Dunara circa 1970s, showing plantings introduced since 1943, when aerial photography showed this area devoid of vegetation. (Source: Russell 1980, p.76; photo attributed to Municipality of Woollahra).

On 21 March 1978 'Dunara' was placed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE), a Commonwealth list of significant places.⁷² The RNE has been replaced by

⁷² SHR listing

the National Heritage List and is no longer maintained. In 1978 'Dunara' was up for sale and was sold by auction on 7 June 1979.⁷³

In 1986 'Dunara' was Classified by the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

On 10 July 1987 a Permanent Conservation Order (PCO) was placed on 'Dunara', the curtilage being Lot 10B, DP 408926, as shown on the Heritage Plan HC 1417 at Figure 16. The PCO was subject to a schedule of Exemptions under Section 57(2) of the Heritage Act to allow for routine building maintenance and horticultural management.

In the Woollahra Significant Tree Survey of trees growing on private property carried out for Council by consultants Landarc Landscape Architects in 1991, a specimen of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) and a specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine), both growing in the garden of 1 Wentworth Street, Point Piper, close to the boundary with Dunara Reserve were identified as significant single trees for their historical value and visual dominance at harbour, district and local scales.

In the same survey, of trees on public land, a single specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) in Dunara Reserve was identified as a significant single tree for its historical value and visual dominance at harbour, district and local scales. The multi-stemmed development in the top part of the crown was also identified as an interesting feature of this tree.

The Statement of Significance for this tree in Dunara Reserve is set out below.

"The Cook Pine is of similar age, form and size to a neighbouring Pine of the same species located in 1 Wentworth Road [sic]. Both Pines are likely associated with the historically significant c.1882 "Dunara" estate. A dominant vertical element in its own right, the Pine on this property, moreover is of significance as part of a major historic grouping of Araucarias associated with the original estates in this precinct. This major grouping comprises the neighbouring Pine mentioned here as well as the Norfolk Island Pine in the street verge, in front of 1 Wolseley Road and the Cook Pine in Rose Bay Park, adjacent to the Rose Bay Police Station (formerly the gatehouse to Captain Piper's "Henrietta Villa", Furthermore, the Araucarias in Cranbrook School are a visual extension of this dominant theme. (Refer to Listings).

*These trees together form spectacular vertical accents and are an integral component of the early cultural planting of this area. Furthermore, the Cook Pines, with their distinctive curved trunks, dramatic scale, narrow branching pattern and very tall column-like appearance, are consistently rarer than the Norfolk Island Pines in the Municipality and are often more visually significant. Two large Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) are also of note in this reserve."*

⁷³ Russell 1980, p.76

In 1992 the owners of 'Dunara' were the Farkas family.⁷⁴

'Dunara' was listed as an item of environmental heritage in *Woollahra LEP 1995* on 10 March 1995 and on 2 April 1999 was placed on the State Heritage Register.

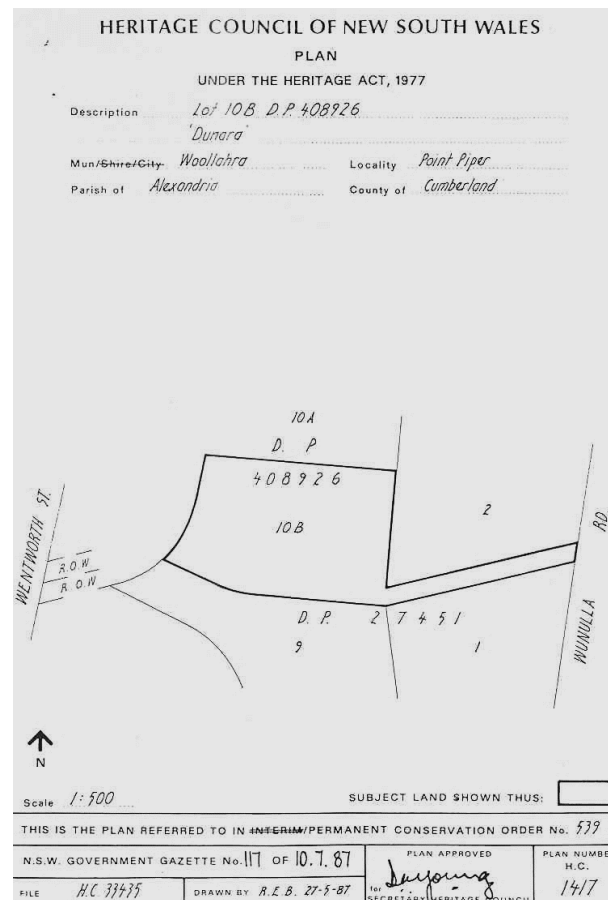


Figure 16 Heritage Plan 1417 showing the PCO curtilage for 'Dunara', which includes a narrow access way to Wunulla Road. (Source: SHR listing)

The SHR listing indicates that interior alterations were made to 'Dunara' c.1990 and that the front and rear gardens were re-landscaped with box (*Buxus* sp.) hedging, Gardenia sp. and grassed areas. A brick wall was constructed to the southern side (right of way access to two lots downhill and east of 'Dunara').

In 2006, the then owner advised the Heritage Branch that the front of 'Dunara' had a recent brush fence along it. In the southwestern corner of 'Dunara' was a dead Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*). Another large tree, a Queensland Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*) in Dunara's garden had also died and had been removed.

In 2007, two air conditioning units and associated conduits had been installed on the southern wall of 'Dunara' without prior approval [of the Heritage Council].⁷⁵

⁷⁴ Letter from Council to Mrs Farkas dated 23 September 1992 in response to her enquiry regarding the history of the property.

⁷⁵ SHR listing for 'Dunara'

At a meeting on 24 August 2015 Woollahra Council resolved:

- A. THAT Council prepare a planning proposal to amend Schedule 4: Classification and reclassification of public land in *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014* (Woollahra LEP 2014) to reclassify the land known as Dunara gardens from 'community land' to 'operational land' with the intention of disposing of the land.
- B. THAT a further report be brought to Council on the findings of the public consultation including the public hearing and submissions.

On 12 March 2018 Woollahra Council adopted a notice of motion in the following terms:

"THAT Council requests staff to prepare and submit a report including a heritage assessment and draft heritage inventory sheet for Dunara Reserve to the Urban Planning Committee to facilitate consideration of Dunara Reserve (and its elements) being:

1. *included in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan as a heritage item; and*
2. *listed as a heritage item of state significance on the NSW State Heritage Register."*

2.3 Historical themes & ability to demonstrate

The NSW State Heritage Inventory identifies 36 historical themes, which signify historical processes, but do not describe physical evidence or items in a study area. These State Themes are very general, and many heritage items will relate to more than one theme. They do, however, help us to understand the historical context of individual items. The main State Themes relevant to Dunara Reserve are Environment – Cultural Landscape; Land Tenure; Creative Endeavour; and Persons.

Set out below is a table of Australian and NSW historical themes, with the potential ability of 'Dunara Reserve' to demonstrate these themes indicated.

Australian theme	NSW State theme	Ability to demonstrate
Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment – Cultural Landscape	The site is an example of a small Council-owned reserve remaining from subdivision of a historic Point Piper estate, the house 'Dunara' being the oldest remaining on Point Piper.
Building settlements, towns and cities	Land Tenure	The site and associated subdivision plans and other archival material demonstrate changes in land tenure and land use in a part of the Woollahra local government area from the early land grants of the colonial period to the present day.

Australian theme	NSW State theme	Ability to demonstrate
Developing Australia's cultural life	Creative Endeavour	The site itself and the plantings demonstrate changing styles and aesthetic values over a period of more than 100 years. The specimen of Cook's Pine on the reserve is a fine example of the ornamental tree planting on the historic estates of the Woollahra local government area which make a major contribution to the area's cultural landscape.
Marking the phases of life	Persons	Dunara Reserve is a remnant of the significant late Victorian property 'Dunara' which was built by prominent Sydney medical man Sir Charles Mackellar and was the birthplace of his daughter, the famous Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar. The specimen of Cook's Pine is highly likely to have been part of the Mackellar period planting and a significant element of the garden which was so important to the family and other tenants and owners of the property.

3.0 Analysis of physical evidence

This section of the heritage assessment describes and analyses Dunara Reserve as a place in the environmental context of the Woollahra local government area. Physical evidence considered includes the cultural landscape as a whole, its hard and soft landscape elements and associated archives.

3.1 The environmental context & site description

3.1.1 The site and its boundaries

Dunara Reserve is irregular in shape with an area of approximately 402 m² and a fall from Wentworth Street of approximately 4 metres to the southeast.

To the west, the site has a narrow access of approximately 2.7 m to Wentworth Street, which provides limited pedestrian access. To the north the site adjoins Dunara Gardens, the private road to the former 'Dunara' estate. To the east the site adjoins No.9 Dunara Gardens and to the south the site adjoins No. 1 Wentworth Street.

The site was created as a result of a subdivision of the Dunara Estate in 1956. Lot 11 in DP 27451 was designated as Public Garden and Recreation Space. The site is owned by Woollahra Council.

The southern boundary with 1 Wentworth Street is bounded partly by a capped timber paling fence and partly by a stone-capped masonry wall and the northern boundary is the concrete driveway of Dunara Gardens. There are several 'No Parking at any time beyond this sign' signs in the Reserve beside the driveway and two swings attached to the African Olive tree.

3.1.2 Ornamental plantings

The site contains a range of exotic and native trees and shrubs including a mature specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) which is local heritage item No 277 in Woollahra LEP 2014. The site also contains two specimens of *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) which may date from the post-Mackellar period. Other specimens in the reserve are likely to be self-sown or recent plantings and include specimens of *Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata* (African Olive), *Ficus* sp., *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel), several palms, *Strelitzia nicolai* (Bird-of-Paradise Tree), a casuarina and *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* cultivars. There is a dense layer of leaf litter and accumulated dead palm fronds, particularly on the steep slope adjoining the boundary with 1 Wentworth Street.

3.1.3 Archival material

Archival material relating to 'Dunara' is located in Woollahra Council files, in papers relating to the lives and works of Sir Charles Mackellar and his daughter, the poet Dorothea Mackellar at the Mitchell Library and in published works listed in the Bibliography at the end of this report.

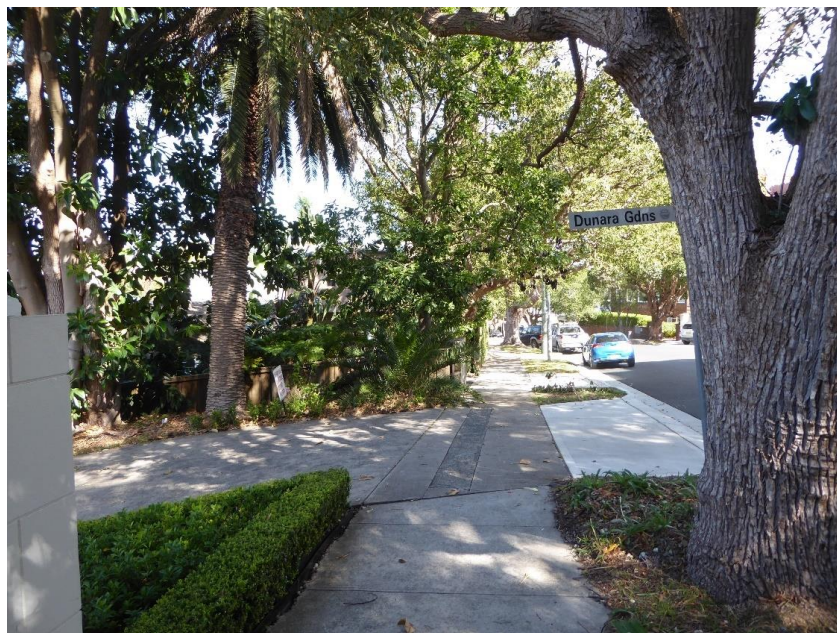


Figure 17 View south along the footpath of Wentworth Street at the entrance to Dunara Gardens, showing specimens of *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) and *Ficus* sp. on Dunara Reserve. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)



Figure 18 View east along the entrance drive of Dunara Gardens, with 3 Dunara Gardens at left, 'Dunara' (10 Dunara Gardens) at centre and Dunara Reserve at right. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)



Figure 19 View within Dunara Gardens, with part of the garden of No.3 at left, no.4 Dunara Gardens at centre and part of the western elevation of 'Dunara' at right. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)



Figure 20 View east into Dunara Reserve, with glimpses of 9 Dunara Gardens (left of centre) and 1 Wentworth Street at right. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)

3.2 Adjoining development and landscape character

After 'Dunara' was subdivided in 1956 into 11 lots, new residences were built on each of the lots, with the house 'Dunara' remaining on a residual lot with small remnant garden areas on its western and eastern sides and narrow setbacks on the northern and southern sides. Development within Dunara Gardens is of various scales and architectural styles and includes an LEP listed Modernist residence at No.4 Dunara Gardens. Wentworth Street has paved footpaths and nature strips with various street tree plantings including a specimen of Camphor Laurel near the entry to Dunara Gardens.



Figure 21 View across Wentworth Street from the entrance to Dunara Gardens, showing the apartment building at 2B Wentworth Street. The street tree at right is a specimen of *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel). (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)

3.3 Views analysis & visual absorption capacity

3.3.1 Views to Dunara Reserve

There are unrestricted views east along the Dunara Gardens driveway into the Reserve from the footpath of Wentworth Street although the whole Reserve cannot be observed from this viewing point due to the vegetation growing on the site.

There are views from the footpath of Wentworth Street north of the entry drive into Dunara Gardens, revealing parts of the upper northern and western elevations of 'Dunara' and the specimens of Cook's Pine. There are also views revealing parts of 'Dunara' and the Cook's Pine from the footpath and carriageway of Wyuna Road.



Figure 22 View southeast from the footpath of Wentworth Street between 3A and 3B Dunara Gardens, showing parts of the upper elevations of 'Dunara'. The Cook's Pine with co-dominant trunks to its upper canopy is the listed specimen on Dunara Reserve while the other Cook's Pine is the listed specimen on 1 Wentworth Street. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)

There are distant views towards Dunara Reserve from points along the Rose Bay foreshore and the heritage listed Cook's Pine trees are a prominent emergent element in the tree canopy of the cultural landscape.



Figure 23 Telephoto view south from the footpath of Wyuna Road towards the Cook's Pine in Dunara Reserve. The flat-roofed house in the right foreground is 22 Wyuna Road, with the red tiled roof house at 20 Wyuna Road. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)



Figure 24 Telephoto view northwest from the northern footpath of New South Head Road, Rose Bay, with marina building and Regatta restaurant in the foreground. The Cook's Pine trees in Dunara Reserve and 1 Wentworth Street are very prominent elements in the landscape. The roof and part of the first-floor verandah of 'Dunara' can be seen to the right of centre. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)



Figure 25 View west from the footpath on the road into Rose Bay Wharf, west of Lyne Park, towards Dunara Reserve. The multi-stemmed Cook's Pine in Dunara Reserve and other Araucarias in the area are very prominent elements in the landscape. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 April 2018)

3.3.2 Views out of Dunara Reserve

There are restricted views out of Dunara Reserve to adjoining properties in the Dunara Gardens subdivision and nearby properties in Wentworth Street

3.3.3 Views & vistas within Dunara Reserve

Views and vista within the Reserve are restricted by the relatively dense plant growth within the area.

3.3.4 Visual absorption capacity

Visual absorption capacity is an estimation of the ability of a particular area of landscape to absorb development without creating a significant change in visual character or a reduction in scenic quality of the area. The capacity of an area to absorb development visually is primarily dependent on landform, vegetation and the location and nature of existing development. Generally, flat or gently undulating open forest or woodland has a higher capacity to visually absorb development than open heathland or swamp or heavily undulating topography with cleared ridges and slopes.

A major factor influencing visual absorption capacity is the level of visual contrast between the proposed development and the existing elements of the landscape in which it is to be located. If, for example, a visually prominent development already exists, then the capacity of that area to visually absorb an additional development of similar scale and form is higher than a similar section of land that has no similar development but has a natural undeveloped visual character.

It is considered that Dunara Reserve is too small and too sloping to accommodate structures without compromising its heritage values. Any construction within the

Reserve would be likely to have negative impacts on the significant trees growing in and adjacent to the Reserve.

The significant trees growing on Dunara Reserve will require replacement in due course to maintain the landscape character of the site and their contribution to the cultural landscape of the Woollahra local government area. The visual absorption capacity of the site is such that this can be achieved without adverse heritage impacts but may require removal of non-significant plants from the Reserve.

3.4 Physical condition

Assessment of the vigour, condition and public safety risk of the trees growing on the Reserve would require inspection by a qualified arborist with experience in assessing heritage trees. At the time of this author's inspection of the site, the plantings appeared to be in generally good condition, given that Sydney had been experiencing a prolonged dry spell. There was a considerable amount of accumulated leaf litter on the site, including dead palm fronds shed by the specimens of *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Islands Date Palm) and other palms on the site.

4.0 Comparative Analysis

4.1 Rationale for comparison

Comparison of a place with other places of similar age, use and form can assist in establishing relative heritage significance. This analysis has been limited to other comparable reserves listed on LEP schedules in NSW or otherwise known to the author. Such comparison is useful in helping to assess the rarity or representativeness of a place, but it must be noted that the other sites with which Dunara Reserve is compared may not have been assessed according to the same criteria or studied to the same extent.

4.2 Examples of historic estate remnants

Many historic estates in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs have been subdivided and re-subdivided since they were first established. 'Dunara' retains little of its original land, apart from the reduced curtilage around the house and Dunara Reserve. Also, the house is now orientated to the east, overlooking Rose Bay, where it retains Sydney Harbour views, whereas originally the western elevation was the front of the house, addressing the entrance drive and garden. Its once extensive garden is now largely occupied by dwellings erected since the subdivision of the estate in 1956.

There are remnants of many historic estates in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, including the following:

- McKell Park at Darling Point, which includes the heritage listed archaeological remains of Canonbury cottage;
- Remnants of Sir John Hay's garden in the grounds of 'Overthorpe' and adjoining properties, New South Head Road and Manning Road, Double Bay;
- Grotto associated with Alexander Macleay's Elizabeth Bay House;
- Gateposts associated with many historic buildings demolished for apartment developments e.g. in Thornton Street, Darling Point and Alison Road, Randwick.

Several other properties in Woollahra local government area, in addition to Dunara Gardens, also contain specimens of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) assessed as significant trees and listed in Council's 1991 Register of Significant Trees for their historic significance and visual dominance at local, district and harbour scales.

Those listed in the Register and known to be extant are at the following properties:

- Chiltern, 23 Eastbourne Road, Darling Point – single specimen, 27 metres tall, 80+ years old;
- 1 Wentworth Street, Point Piper – single specimen, 31 metres tall, 100+ years old;
- 17 Ginahgulla Road, Bellevue Hill (part of Scots College and formerly Ginahgulla) – single specimen, 20 metres tall, 80+ years old;
- 'Elaine', 550 New South Head Road, Double Bay – single specimen, 32 metres tall, 100+ years old;

Those listed in the Register but for which their current status is unknown are at the following properties:

- 353 Edgecliff Road, Double Bay – single specimen, 30 metres tall, 110+ years old;
- 'The Manor', 20A Vacluse Road, Vacluse – component of informal group, 29 metres tall, 110+ years old;
- 22E Vacluse Road, Vacluse – row planting, 31-33 metres tall, 110+ years old;
- Street tree, Bennett Avenue, Darling Point – single specimen, 30 metres tall, 80+ years old;
- 71 Wallaroy Road, Woollahra – 32 metres tall, 100+ years old;
- Rose Bay Park and Police Station, Rose Bay – single specimen, 30 metres tall, 100+ years old.

4.3 Rarity of Cook's Pine in Sydney and NSW

Araucaria columnaris (Cook's Pine) is an evergreen conifer in the family Araucariaceae, native to New Caledonia (including the Isle of Pines) and on Loyalty Island. It was recorded by James Cook on his second voyage to the Pacific and its common name reflects this. In cultivation in southeast Australia it is regarded as the rarest of the species of *Araucaria* commonly planted, the others being *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine), *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine) and *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya pine). *Araucaria araucana* (Monkey Puzzle), from Chile and Argentina was more widely grown in the 19th century but is rare in NSW.

The authoritative *Horticultural Flora of South-Eastern Australia*, published jointly by Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and UNSW Press, lists both native and exotic plants that have either been listed on wholesale and retail nursery catalogues in the region since 1985 or are known to be widely grown in parks and gardens. The listings advise readers where to find specimens and, where known, include details of size, historical notes and dates of planting. The book describes *Araucaria columnaris* as the rarer of the commonly planted species of *Araucaria*, with a few old trees remaining from 19th century plantings. It lists the following specimens of *Araucaria columnaris* in New South Wales.

- Mollymook (near surf beach adjacent to Golf Club);
- Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney;
- Centennial Park;

- Thomas Walker Hospital “Rivendell”, Concord – about 30 metres tall;
- Cumberland Hospital, Parramatta North (near cricket oval) - about 30 metres tall;
- Catholic Theological Union, Mary street, Hunters Hill (several in a grove – about 35 metres tall);
- Parramatta Park (3 trees above Old Government House on top of hill – about 40 metres tall);
- Dunara Gardens, Woollahra (32 metres tall, > 100 years old).

From the above analysis, it may be concluded that Dunara Reserve contains a significant tree which is relatively rare in cultivation in NSW although there are a number of specimens in Woollahra local government area. The specimen of Cook’s Pine in Dunara Reserve is cited in an authoritative source as an important example of the species in cultivation in southeast Australia.

5.0 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This section of the heritage assessment describes the methodology used for the assessment of cultural significance of heritage places in NSW and applies the assessment criteria to Dunara Reserve and its component elements.

5.1 Principles and basis for assessment

The concept of ‘cultural significance’ or ‘heritage value’ embraces the value of a place or item which cannot be expressed solely in financial terms. Assessment of cultural significance endeavours to establish why a place or item is considered important and is valued by the community. Cultural significance is embodied in the fabric of the place (including its setting and relationship to other items), the records associated with the place and the response that the place evokes in the contemporary community.

Cultural landscapes by their name imply human intervention but they may also include substantial natural elements. “They can present a cumulative record of human activity and land use in the landscape, and as such can offer insights into the values, ideals and philosophies of the communities forming them, and of their relationship to the place. Cultural landscapes have a strong role in providing the distinguishing character of a locale, a character that might have varying degrees of aesthetic quality, but, regardless, is considered important in establishing the community’s sense of place.”

5.2 Assessment methodology

The Australia ICOMOS charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance (the Burra Charter) was formulated in 1979 and most recently revised in 1999, with an updated edition published in 2013. The Burra Charter is the standard adopted by most heritage practitioners in Australia. The Burra Charter and its Guidelines for Assessment of Cultural Significance recommend that significance be assessed in categories such as aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and other. The 1999 amendments to the Burra Charter emphasise the importance of setting in the conservation of heritage items.

The *NSW Heritage Manual* outlines the same broad criteria for assessing the nature of significance. These criteria are considered in addition to an item’s rarity and / or representativeness, criteria that relate to comparative significance. The seven criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of New South Wales for the assessment of items for potential listing on the State Heritage Register apply equally well for items of local

significance. To qualify for listing on a LEP schedule or on the SHR, an item must satisfy at least one of the seven assessment criteria at a local or State level respectively, although many items will satisfy more than one criterion. Items are assessed firstly in relation to the heritage values and, secondly, in regard to the context in which the item is significant. Decisions on whether items are significant against each criterion are assisted by application of Inclusion and Exclusion Guidelines.

5.3 Current heritage listings

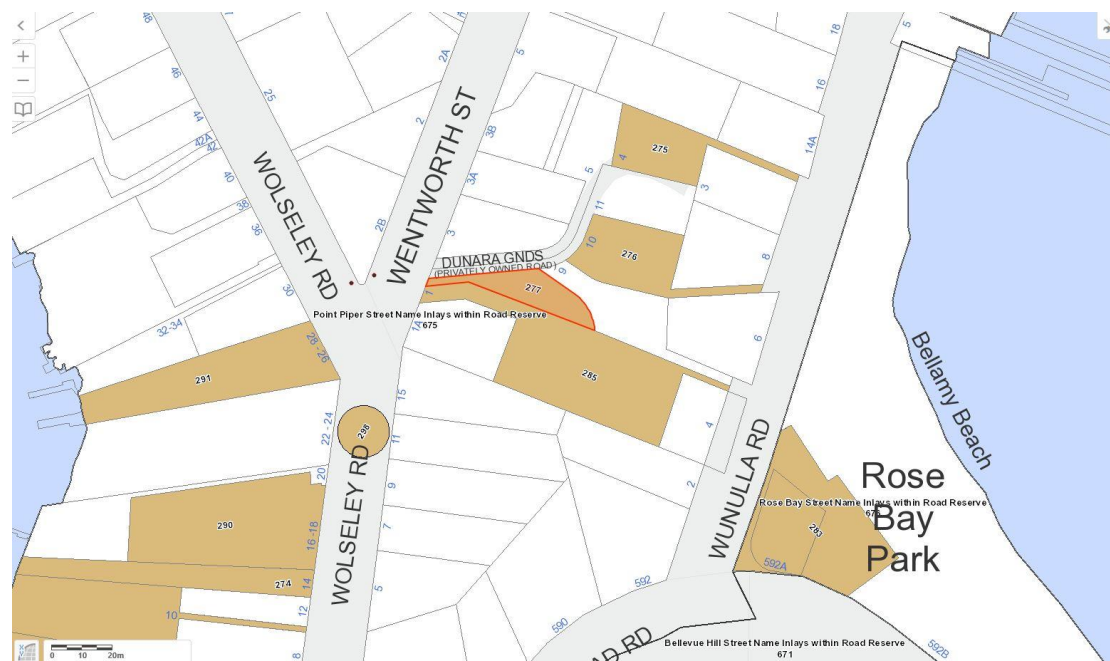


Figure 26 Extract of Woollahra LEP 2014 Heritage Map showing Item 27776 – Specimen of Cook's Pine on Dunara Reserve (edged red) and other listed heritage items in its vicinity. No.10 Dunara Gardens, the original house 'Dunara', on a much-reduced curtilage is Item 276 and No.4 Dunara Gardens is Item 275. (Source: Woollahra Council)

5.4 Review of heritage significance

The additional information obtained from review of previous documents and from the research for this assessment has enabled a review of the heritage values of the Reserve since it was last assessed. Following is a revised assessment of significance against the relevant criteria.

5.4.1 Historical Significance (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows evidence of a significant human activity
- is associated with a significant activity or historical phase
- maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity

⁷⁶ The current LEP listing is for the specimen of Cook's Pine, not the Dunara Reserve.

Guidelines for Exclusion

- has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes
- provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance
- has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association

Types of items which typically meet criterion (a) include:

- items which demonstrate strong associations to past customs, cultural practices, philosophies or systems of government, regardless of the intactness of the item or any structure on the place;
- items associated with significant historical events, regardless of the intactness of the item or any structure on the place;
- significant cultural landscapes and other items demonstrating overlays of the continual pattern of human use and occupation; and/or
- items where the physical fabric (above or below ground) demonstrates any of the points described above.

Dunara Reserve is associated with a significant historical phase in the development of the cultural landscape of Point Piper and the former Dunara Estate. It retains physical fabric in the form of a significant specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) which is a remnant of the historic plantings of 'Dunara' and which is a local landmark. It also contains two specimens of *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) likely to have been part of the ornamental plantings in the 'Dunara' garden.

Dunara Reserve satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion A at a local level as a significant part of the historic cultural landscape of Woollahra local government area but not at a State level.

5.4.2 Historical Associational Significance (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows evidence of a significant human occupation
- is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons

Guidelines for Exclusion

- has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events
- provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance
- has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association

Types of items which typically meet this criterion include:

- items which demonstrate strong associations to a particular event, historical theme, people or philosophies, regardless of the intactness of the item or any of its structures;
- items associated with significant historical events, regardless of the intactness of the item or any structure on the place; and/or
- items where the physical fabric (above or below ground) demonstrates any of the points described above.

Dunara Reserve is a remnant of the 'Dunara' Estate developed by Sir Charles Mackellar from the 1880s and associated with the famous Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar, who was born at 'Dunara' in 1885.

Dorothea Mackellar was born in the house and lived at 'Dunara' for many years, probably being inspired by the garden to write her poem 'In a southern garden'. While it is highly likely that the specimen of Cook's Pine was planted by or for the Mackellar family, there is insufficient evidence at this stage for a direct association between any member of the Mackellar family or subsequent occupants with the particular part of the garden retained in Dunara Reserve. The original garden is so subdivided and altered that the reserve is assessed to satisfy the exclusion guidelines for this criterion.

Dunara Reserve does not satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion B at a local or State level.

5.4.3 Aesthetic Significance (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and / or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or an area.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement
- is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement
- is aesthetically distinctive
- has landmark qualities
- exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is not a major work by an important designer or artist
- has lost its design or technical integrity
- its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded
- has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement

Types of items which meet this criterion include:

- items which demonstrate creative or technical excellence, innovation or achievement;
- items which have been the inspiration for creative or technical achievement;
- items which demonstrate distinctive aesthetic attributes in form or composition;
- items which demonstrate a highly original and influential style, such as an important early (seminal) work of a major architect; and/or
- items which demonstrate the culmination of a particular architectural style (known as climactic).

The cultural landscape of Dunara Reserve is aesthetically distinctive and the specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* has exceptional landmark qualities, with visual prominence at local, district and harbour scales.

Dunara Reserve satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion C at a local level but not a State level.

5.4.4 Social Significance (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW or an area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- is important for its associations with an identifiable group
- is important to a community's sense of place

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is only important to the community for amenity reasons
- is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative

Types of items which meet this criterion include:

- items which are esteemed by the community for their cultural values;
- items which if damaged or destroyed would cause the community a sense of loss; and/or
- items which contribute to a community's sense of identity.

Items are excluded if:

- they are valued only for their amenity (service convenience); and/or
- the community seeks their retention only in preference to a proposed alternative.

Social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, but it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. *Araucaria columnaris* is a species identified in the Woollahra Heritage Study as an important element in the cultural landscape of the local government area and therefore contributes to the community's sense of place. The specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* growing in Dunara Reserve has been recognised as a significant tree since the Woollahra Significant Tree Register was established in 1991, is listed as an item in Woollahra LEP 2014 and recognised as an important specimen in the authoritative publication *Horticultural flora of South-eastern Australia*.

It is considered that Dunara Reserve satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion D at a local but not at a State level.

5.4.5 Technical Significance and Research Potential (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information
- is an important benchmark or reference site or type
- provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere

Guidelines for Exclusion

- the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture
- has little archaeological or research potential
- only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites

The inclusion guidelines are pointers to assist in making an assessment against this criterion, but should not constrict the consideration. Similarly, the attributes described in the exclusion guidelines can be used to check if the fabric of the item or

place meets the criterion, or to check a judgment that an item does not meet this criterion. In addition to a detailed examination of surviving physical fabric, documents, oral history and other sources of evidence can often assist the assessment of whether a site has the ability to reveal valuable archaeological, technical, or scientific information. For example, it may become apparent that the buried footings of a colonial house have little integrity if there is historical evidence that the site has been so disturbed that there will be no additional archaeological deposits associated with the use of the house.

The lack of information about the date of planting and the maintenance history of the specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* and other plantings in the reserve and the limited archaeological or research potential of the reserve means that the place does not satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion E at either a local or at a State level.

5.4.6 Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process
- demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost
- shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity
- is the only example of its type
- demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest
- shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is not rare
- is numerous but under threat

The inclusion guidelines are pointers to assist in making an assessment against this criterion, but should not constrict the consideration. Similarly, the attributes described in the exclusion guidelines can be used to check if the fabric of the item or place meets the criterion, or to check a judgment that an item does not meet this criterion. For example, a park in a country town may be said to be a *rare* example of Victorian public garden design, but further research may reveal that it is a *representative* example, as there are many such parks in country towns in NSW. If it is one of the few remaining examples of an important 19th century garden designer, or contains species not found in similar gardens elsewhere, it may qualify as rare in the NSW context. Assuming it is the only garden of its type in the local area, it is likely it would also be rare in the local context. The level of heritage significance at State or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like items or by proving that there is no documentation on similar items. This helps in determining the heritage significance of an item.

While *Araucaria columnaris* is relatively rare in cultivation in the Woollahra local government area and in NSW generally, Dunara Reserve, a remnant of the former garden of 'Dunara', it is not considered to be sufficiently rare as a cultural landscape in the local government area or in NSW generally to satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion F at a local or at a State level.

5.4.7 Representativeness (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural places or environments.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- is a fine example of its type
- has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items
- has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity
- is a significant variation to a class of items
- is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type
- is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size
- is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is a poor example of its type
- does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type
- does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type

The inclusion guidelines are pointers to assist in making an assessment against this criterion, but should not restrict the consideration. A fine representative example needs to demonstrate key characteristics of its type or class. The intactness of the physical fabric of an item (its integrity) is another attribute that can be used to qualify the rare or representative criteria. The attributes described in the exclusion guidelines can be used to check if the item or place meets the criterion or to check a judgment that an item does not meet this criterion. For example, a group of Victorian cottages in a place with many examples of 19th century architecture, such as Bathurst or the inner suburbs of Sydney, may have representative value. In another city or suburb in which most of the 19th century architecture has been replaced they may be assessed as rare.

The level of heritage significance at State or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like items. The attributes described for criteria (f) and (g) will assist in the determination of significance. A heritage item is not to be excluded on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been entered on a statutory list.

While the specimens of *Araucaria columnaris* and *Phoenix canariensis* growing on Dunara Reserve are representative of ornamental tree plantings in historic gardens within the Woollahra local government area, the reserve itself is not considered to be representative of those gardens since it is only a small remnant of the former 'Dunara' garden. The reserve is not considered to satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion G at a local or at a State level.

5.5 Integrity and intactness

Integrity is "the state of being whole, entire or undiminished"⁷⁷. While the garden of the former 'Dunara' estate is much diminished in size and has lost most of its original and early plantings and other features, Dunara Reserve has retained its integrity since the lot is unchanged in size since it was created in the subdivision of 1956.

⁷⁷ *Macquarie Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 1991

Another term commonly used in the assessment of heritage items is intactness, a measure of the degree to which the item remains unaltered from its original configuration. Against this measure, Dunara Reserve retains the specimen of Cook's Pine and two specimens of Canary Island Date Palm from the original or early garden at 'Dunara' but other fabric in the reserve is more recent.

5.6 Archaeological Significance

5.6.1 Definitions

Archaeological potential is based on the likelihood of archaeological material surviving from the historical occupation phases of the site. Archaeological material can contribute to understanding the history and significance of a site. The survival of archaeological material depends on the nature of the archaeological material and on the degree of site disturbance.

Archaeological material has statutory protection under the *Heritage Act 1977*, which prohibits the exposure of *relics*.⁷⁸ If proposed work is likely to affect known relics or is likely to discover, expose, move, damage or destroy a relic, an excavation permit is required. Permits are issued to archaeologists by the Heritage Council of NSW in accordance with Sections 57 or 140 of the *Heritage Act, 1977*. Permits are approved based on a demonstrated need to disturb the archaeological resource, a research design, the archaeological technique to be employed and the management of excavated material or features left in-situ. Applications for permits require approximately 21 days to consider. Exemptions for maintenance of plumbing and other subterranean services exist and are assessed for each archaeological site.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has delegated authority to issue excavation permits for some classes of excavation, including the work on sites containing Aboriginal archaeological sites. The Aboriginal archaeological potential of Dunara Reserve has not been assessed during this assessment. If Aboriginal archaeological material is exposed in the future, work should stop and the NP&WS contacted.

All archaeological work, whether carried out under a permit or not, must conform to the established professional standards. The archaeological requirements include the archiving of reports and archaeological collections as well as the dissemination of the results as part of the archaeological work.

No archaeological investigations of Dunara Reserve have been carried out for this assessment but available evidence of the former garden of 'Dunara' suggests that archaeological potential is low although the boundary wall between the reserve and the adjoining property at No. 1 Wentworth Street is likely to mark part of the original southern boundary of the 'Dunara' Estate.

⁷⁸ "*relic*" means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and (b) is of State or local heritage significance. Ref: *Heritage Act 1977* & *Heritage Amendment Act 2009* No.34

5.7 Statement of significance

Dunara Reserve has historical significance at a local level but not at a State level derived from its association with a significant historical phase in the development of the cultural landscape of Point Piper and the former 'Dunara' Estate. It retains physical fabric in the form of a significant specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) which is a remnant of the historic plantings of 'Dunara' and which is a local landmark. It also contains two specimens of *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) likely to have been part of the ornamental plantings in the 'Dunara' garden. (Criterion A).

While it is highly likely that the specimen of Cook's Pine on the reserve was planted by or for the Mackellar family, there is insufficient evidence at this stage for a direct association between any member of the Mackellar family or subsequent occupants with the particular part of the garden retained in Dunara Reserve and the reserve is not considered to have historical associational significance at a local or State level. (Criterion B)

The cultural landscape of Dunara Reserve is aesthetically distinctive and the specimen of *A. columnaris* has exceptional landmark qualities, with visual prominence at local, district and harbour scales. The reserve is considered to have aesthetic value at a local but not at a State level. (Criterion C).

Social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, but it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. *Araucaria columnaris* is a species identified in the Woollahra Heritage Study as an important element in the cultural landscape of the local government area and therefore contributes to the community's sense of place. The specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* growing in Dunara Reserve has been recognised as a significant tree since the Woollahra Significant Tree Register was established in 1991, is listed as an item in Woollahra LEP 2014 and recognised as an important specimen in the authoritative publication *Horticultural flora of South-eastern Australia*. The reserve is considered to have social value at a local but not at a State level. (Criterion D).

The reserve is not considered to have technical / research values, rarity or representativeness at a local or State level. (Criteria E, F and G).

5.8 Grading of significance

5.8.1 Rationale for grading

Grading of significance is in accordance with the *NSW Heritage Manual* update 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (NSW Heritage Office, August 2000). Typical gradings and the recommended management regimes for each grading are shown in the table below.

Grading	Justification	Status & Management
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding item of local or State significance. High degree of intactness. Item can be interpreted relatively easily.	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing. Retain, conserve (restore / reconstruct) and maintain. Adaptation is appropriate if it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidance provided in this heritage significance assessment.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing. Retain, conserve (restore/reconstruct) and maintain. Adaptation is appropriate if it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidelines provided in this heritage significance assessment. There is generally more scope for change than for components of exceptional significance.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing. Retain, adapt and maintain. Demolition / removal is acceptable if there is no adverse impact on the significance of the place. Retention in some cases may depend on factors other than assessed values, including physical condition and functionality.
Little or none	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Retain, alter or demolish / remove as required provided there are no adverse impacts on the significance of the place. Sensitive alteration or demolition/removal may assist with enhancing the significance of components of greater significance.
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Demolish / remove when the opportunity arises while ensuring there are no adverse impacts on the significance of other more significant components. Components that are actively contributing to the physical deterioration of components of higher significance should be removed as a matter of priority.

5.8.2 Application of gradings to Dunara Reserve elements

Those components that are critical to the significance of the place include items of local significance, worthy of inclusion on any register of items of significance.

Elements in this category include:

- all original and early principal spaces that retain all or much of their original spatial character and characteristic fabric;
- original and early site layout and plantings;
- significant views and view corridors to, from and within the site;
- the entire archival collection, including Woollahra Council records, historic photographs, plans and reports.

The heritage values of the various component elements within the Reserve have been assessed using the criteria in Section 5.4 for the purpose of enabling decisions on the future conservation and development of the place to be based on an understanding of its significance. The schedule below identifies those landscape components which contribute to the overall significance of Dunara Reserve.

These assessments have been made without regard to the practical considerations which will subsequently be taken into account in formulating conservation policies. In other words, the assessments below relate solely to *significance* (how important the item is), and do not relate to *management* (what should happen to the item). Management decisions should take into account both significance and other issues such as physical condition.

It should be noted that some components or spaces have been degraded by recent development, by adaptation or deterioration, and would require restoration or reconstruction to recover their full significance. In some cases, significant fabric may be obscured by later materials or finishes.

Significance Level	Elements in Dunara Reserve
Exceptional	Entire curtilage of the Reserve, being a remnant of the garden of 'Dunara' containing significant plantings from that garden; The specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Cook's Pine) listed as a Significant tree in Council's Register of Significant Trees (1991) and as an item of environmental heritage in Woollahra LEP 2014;
High	Two specimens of <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Island Date Palm)
Moderate	Other mature tree plantings in the Reserve; Recent shrub plantings e.g. <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>
Little or none	Capped timber paling fence;
Intrusive	'No Parking' signs; Rope swings on African Olive tree

5.9 Curtilage Considerations

5.9.1 Some Definitions

In the past, the term curtilage has been interpreted in various ways by landscape professionals and the courts, often as the minimal area defined as 'the area of land occupied by a dwelling and its yard and outbuildings, actually enclosed or considered as enclosed by a building and its outbuildings'⁷⁹. This definition does not take into account the importance of the setting of a heritage item, which may not be a building

⁷⁹ *Macquarie Dictionary*, 2nd edition, 1991

and may include a substantial garden or landscape and views and vistas to and from the item. The current NSW Heritage System interpretation of curtilage, embodied in the 1996 Heritage Council publication, *Historic Curtilages*, may be summarised as the area around a heritage item that must be conserved in context to retain the significance of the item and enable its heritage values to be interpreted.

The curtilages for many properties now listed on the State Heritage Register or on Local Environmental Plan schedules were defined at a time when more emphasis was placed on the architectural qualities of buildings than on their landscape contexts. Since the early 1980s there has been an increase in community awareness of the need to protect adequate settings for heritage items, including views and vistas. This enhanced appreciation of landscape is highlighted in the 1999 revision of the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS, placing greater emphasis on 'setting'. Article 8 of the Burra Charter now reads:

"Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate".

The Explanatory Notes to Article 8 are as follows:

"Aspects of the visual setting may include use, siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and materials. Other relationships, such as historical connections, may contribute to interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment or experience of the place."

5.9.2 Determination of a curtilage for Dunara Reserve

The statutory curtilage for a heritage item is usually but not always the lot or lots on which the item stands and, for statutory purposes, is usually but not always restricted to land in the same ownership as the item. The boundaries for an adequate curtilage may be the historic lot boundaries or a smaller area resulting from previous subdivision(s). They may also include adjoining lands critical to retention of views and vistas, although these values may sometimes be more appropriately conserved through planning controls other than those used to protect the item and its immediate setting.

Definition of a curtilage for a historic place does not preclude development within its bounds but requires particular care in the consideration of the nature, extent and impact of such development. However, given the very small size of Dunara Reserve and the significant trees growing on it, development other than horticultural management, canopy replenishment and heritage interpretation is not recommended.

It is recommended that the heritage curtilage for Dunara Reserve should be the entire site described as Lot 11, DP 27451, Wentworth Street, Point Piper.

5.10 State Heritage Inventory form

In accordance with the brief, since Dunara Reserve has been assessed to have heritage significance at a local level, a draft State Heritage Inventory (SHI) form for Dunara Reserve has been prepared and is included as Appendix A. The SHI forms for the specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) growing on Dunara Reserve, for 'Dunara' and for the LEP listed house at 4 Dunara Gardens are included as Appendices B, C and D respectively.

5.11 Nomination for State Heritage Register

In accordance with the brief, since Dunara Reserve has been assessed to not have heritage significance at a State level, a nomination for the inclusion of the place on the State Heritage Register has not been prepared.

6.0 Conclusions and management recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

Based on the assessment in the previous sections, I am of the opinion that Dunara Reserve is of local heritage significance for its historic, aesthetic and social values, warranting its consideration for inclusion as an item of environmental heritage on Schedule 5, *Woollahra LEP 2014*.

I am of the opinion that Dunara Reserve is not of significance at a State level that would warrant its nomination for inclusion on the State Heritage Register.

Given the importance of the reserve as the location for several significant tree specimens including the LEP-listed specimen of *Araucaria columnaris*, I am of the opinion that conservation of the reserve's heritage values may be best achieved if the reserve is retained in public ownership.

6.2 Management recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Dunara Reserve be managed to conserve and enhance its heritage significance through a proactive program of arboricultural and horticultural maintenance.
2. Consideration be given to interpreting the heritage significance of Dunara Reserve in culturally sensitive ways which may include material on Council's website and inclusion on a downloadable app for a walking tour of heritage sites in the Woollahra local government area.
3. A Canopy Replenishment Strategy for the Reserve be prepared to provide for the staged replacement of the significant trees on the site, the timing of such replacement to be guided by arboricultural assessment of the vigour, condition and useful life expectancy of the trees.



Chris Betteridge
Director, Betteridge Heritage
15 June 2018

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8.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Draft SHI form for Dunara Reserve

Appendix B – SHI database entry for Cook’s Pine, Dunara Reserve

Appendix C – SHI database entry for ‘Dunara’, 10 Dunara Gardens

Appendix D – SHI database entry for 4 Dunara Gardens

Heritage Data Form

ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	Dunara Reserve					
Other Name/s Former Name/s	Part of the former 'Dunara' Estate					
Item type (if known)	Landscape - cultural					
Item group (if known)	Parks, gardens and trees					
Item category (if known)	Remnant of residential garden					
Area, Group, or Collection Name						
Street number						
Street name	Wentworth Street					
Suburb/town	Point Piper			Postcode	2027	
Local Government Area/s	Woollahra					
Property description	Lot 11, DP 27451					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude			Longitude		
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Eastings		Northing	
Owner	Woollahra Council					
Current use	Public Garden and Recreation Space / Community Land					
Former Use	Residential garden					
Statement of significance	<p>Dunara Reserve has historical significance at a local level but not at a State level derived from its association with a significant historical phase in the development of the cultural landscape of Point Piper and the former Dunara Estate. It retains physical fabric in the form of a significant specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Cook's Pine) which is a remnant of the historic plantings of 'Dunara' and which is a local landmark. It also contains two specimens of <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Island Date Palm) likely to have been part of the ornamental plantings in the 'Dunara' garden. (Criterion A).</p> <p>While it is highly likely that the specimen of Cook's Pine on the reserve was planted by or for the Mackellar family, there is insufficient evidence at this stage for a direct association between any member of the Mackellar family or subsequent occupants with the particular part of the garden retained in Dunara Reserve and the reserve is not considered to have historical associational significance at a local or State level. (Criterion B)</p> <p>The cultural landscape of Dunara Reserve is aesthetically distinctive and the specimen of <i>A. columnaris</i> has exceptional landmark qualities, with visual prominence at local, district and harbour scales. The reserve is considered to have aesthetic value at a local but not at a State level. (Criterion C).</p> <p>Social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, but it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions</p>					

Heritage Data Form

	<p>about the place – some positive, some negative. <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> is a species identified in the Woollahra Heritage Study as an important element in the cultural landscape of the local government area and therefore contributes to the community's sense of place. The specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> growing in Dunara Reserve has been recognised as a significant tree since the Woollahra Significant Tree Register was established in 1991, is listed as an item in Woollahra LEP 2014 and recognised as an important specimen in the authoritative publication <i>Horticultural flora of South-eastern Australia</i>.</p> <p>The reserve is considered to have social value at a local but not at a State level. (Criterion D).</p> <p>The reserve is not considered to have technical / research values, rarity or representativeness at a local or State level. (Criteria E, F and G).</p>					
Level of Significance						Local <input type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION						
Designer	Unknown but assumed to have been originally designed by or at the direction of Sir Charles Mackellar					
Builder/ maker	Unknown					
Physical Description	<p>Dunara Reserve is irregular in shape with an area of approximately 402 m² and a fall from Wentworth Street of approximately 4 metres to the southeast. To the west, the site has a narrow access of approximately 2.7 m to Wentworth Street, which provides limited pedestrian access. To the north the site adjoins Dunara Gardens, the private road to the former 'Dunara' estate. To the east the site adjoins No.9 Dunara Gardens and to the south the site adjoins No. 1 Wentworth Street.</p> <p>The southern boundary with 1 Wentworth Street is bounded partly by a capped timber paling fence and partly by a stone-capped masonry wall and the northern boundary is the concrete driveway of Dunara Gardens. There are several 'No Parking at any time beyond this sign' signs in the Reserve beside the driveway and two swings attached to the African Olive tree.</p> <p>The site contains a range of exotic and native trees and shrubs including a mature specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Cook's Pine) which is local heritage item No 277 in Woollahra LEP 2014. The site also contains two specimens of <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Island Date Palm) which may date from the post-Mackellar period. Other specimens in the reserve are likely to be self-sown or recent plantings and include specimens of <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cuspidata</i> (African Olive), <i>Ficus</i> sp., <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> (Camphor Laurel), several palms, <i>Strelitzia nicolai</i> (Bird-of-Paradise Tree), a casuarina and <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> cultivars. There is a dense layer of leaf litter and accumulated dead palm fronds, particularly on the steep slope adjoining the boundary with 1 Wentworth Street.</p>					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	<p>At the time of this author's inspection of the site on 19 April 2018, the plantings appeared to be in generally good condition, given that Sydney had been experiencing a prolonged dry spell. There was a considerable amount of accumulated leaf litter on the site, including dead palm fronds shed by the specimens of <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Islands Date Palm) and other palms on the site.</p> <p>No archaeological investigations of Dunara Reserve have been carried out for this assessment but available evidence of the former garden of 'Dunara' suggests that archaeological potential is low although the boundary wall between the reserve and the adjoining property at No. 1 Wentworth Street is likely to mark part of the original southern boundary of the Dunara Estate.</p>					
Construction years	Start year	Circa 1882	Finish year	Circa 1920s	Circa	<input type="checkbox"/>

Heritage Data Form

Modifications and dates	The original and early plantings have been supplemented by self-sown trees and shrubs and recent plantings
Further comments	
HISTORY	
Historical notes	<p>Aboriginal occupation of the Point Piper area The traditional Aboriginal owners of much of the Woollahra district were the Cadigal clan, while the harbour area around Watsons Bay and South Head was inhabited by the Birrabirragal clan. Both these clans belonged to the coastal Dharug language group and the Eora nation. The devastating impact of European settlement after 1788, felt particularly in the effects of introduced diseases such as smallpox, resulted in the eventual disappearance of the local Aboriginal population. While there is limited information on the lives of the Cadigal and Birrabirragal at Woollahra, some of their heritage is preserved in the form of rock art, shell middens and the Sydney Aboriginal language. ('A brief history of Woollahra' accessed at https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/a_brief_history_of_woollahra)</p> <p>The relatively sheltered, east-facing slopes of Point Piper where 'Dunara' is now located, would have provided good vantage points over Rose Bay and the proximity to the Harbour would have afforded Aboriginal people easy access to food sources in the bay and along the shoreline. The kangaroos in the Aboriginal carvings also suggest the area provided food in the form of terrestrial fauna.</p> <p>Early European settlement of Point Piper Point Piper is named for Captain John Piper, a naval officer who became one of the richest men in Sydney as official collector of customs and harbour dues. On a parcel of 76 hectares granted to him by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1820, Piper built a mansion 'Henrietta Villa' at Point Piper, the house named after the second name of Macquarie's wife, Elizabeth.</p> <p>Point Piper Estate In the 1820s, business partners Daniel Cooper (1785-1853) and Solomon Levey began acquiring the Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay, Point Piper and Woollahra parts of the substantial Point Piper Estate comprising 1130 acres that had been amassed by Captain John Piper since 1816. Their title to the land was confirmed in 1830 and it became the sole property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. The Vaucluse part of Piper's estate outside the Point was bought by William Charles Wentworth. On Cooper's death in 1853, his nephew, also Daniel Cooper (later Sir Daniel Cooper), born in Lancashire in 1821, was appointed trustee of the Point Piper Estate. In 1856 Cooper began a great mansion called 'Woollahra House' on Point Piper, on the site of Piper's 'Henrietta Villa'. In the same year Cooper became first Speaker of the new Legislative Assembly. He resigned from the Speakership in 1860 and returned to England a year later, became the Agent-General for NSW, was made the First Baronet of Woollahra in 1863, and died in 1902.</p> <p>'Woollahra House' was not completed until 1883 by Cooper's son, William, who had purchased the grant from his brother for £10,000. The younger William had "picked up his father's ambition to have the finest garden in Sydney around Woollahra House". (Morris 2008, p.88) The first subdivision on the Point took place around 1880, and although the estate was progressively subdivided after William's departure for England in 1888, it retained impressive grounds laid out with specimen trees and flower beds in expansive lawns, in a Gardenesque rather than Italianate style. (Morris 2008, p.88) 'Woollahra House' was suggested as a replacement for Government House (then occupied by the new Governor-General) around 1901 but the offer was not taken up by the government and the estate was progressively sold off and the house was demolished in 1929. (Spindler, nd)</p>

Heritage Data Form

The Mackellar family and their tenants at 'Dunara'

Scotsman John Mackellar married Euphemia Jackson and the couple emigrated with their family to Australia from Dundee, Scotland in 1839. Their three sons were Keith, Charles and Frederick. Frederick (died 1863), physician and his wife Isabella, née Robertson, widow of William McGarvie had one son, Charles Kinnaird Mackellar (1844-1926) who was born in Sydney and educated at Sydney Grammar School and the University of Glasgow medical school, graduating in 1871. He returned to Australia and practised in Sydney, becoming a noted physician and sociologist. (ADB/Dorothea Mackellar obituary, *SMH*)

In 1877 Charles Mackellar married Marion Isobel Buckland (1854-1933) and the couple had four children: Keith; Eric; Isobel Marion Dorothea (1885-1968) and Malcolm. After the birth of their first two sons, the family's residence in Macquarie Street, Sydney became too small and they chose a site of five acres (2 hectares) at Point Piper to build a gentleman's residence.

'Dunara' was built in 1882-83, the name of the house apparently being Aboriginal for 'gunyah on the slope of a hill'. (Anderson 2008, pp.14-15) At the time the house was built, 'Wentworth Street was still a bush track, and does not appear as a road until 1894'. (Griffiths 1970, p.68) As little as was practical of the native growth was cleared for the house, servants' quarters, coach house, necessary outbuilding and gardens. (Howley 1989, p.21) There were wrought iron gates and fences [presumably to the Wentworth Street frontage], a driveway lined with *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel) and a fishpond with fountain. (Howley 1989, p.21)

An 1887 photograph shows the bushland surrounding 'Dunara' (downhill to its east, south and to the north), with the house on a cleared rise above Rose Bay. (*SMH* 1978)

Dorothea Mackellar was born at 'Dunara' on 1 July 1885 and spent her youth there on and off until 1908. Her two older brothers were delighted with their baby sister. "It was almost as good as having huge expanses of garden and bush with the beach at the bottom; almost as good as having the horses on the property instead of being kept at a livery stable in the city; almost as good as being able to keep a dog or two." (Howley 1989, p.23)

'Dunara' appears to have been occupied consistently by the Mackellar family from c.1885 to c.1900. After the turn of the century, the Mackellars travelled widely and during some of their absences in other houses or abroad, the house was apparently leased to several other families. In 1901, 'Dunara' was occupied by Monsieur and Madame Brasier de Thuy (*Sands* Directory 1901), a couple who are mentioned in Nesta Griffith's history as 'delightful' and 'well-loved wherever they went'. The alphabetical listing in *Sands* gives M. Brasier de Thuy's full title as Principle Agent for *Australasia Compagnie des Messagieries Maritimes*, Queen's Corner, 57 Pitt Street, Sydney. The French couple were preparing to move out of 'Dunara' in late March of 1901 to take up residence at 'Arlington' in Edgecliff Road, which they had leased from a Mr Machardy. (*Australian Town & Country Journal* 23 March 1901, p.45, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article71464994.pdf)

Mackellar is again listed in *Sands* as the occupant of 'Dunara' from 1902 to 1904. The family was still reeling from the death of their oldest son and Sir Charles' heir, Keith, who was a second lieutenant in the Australian Volunteer Horse Squadron and was killed in action in South Africa on 11 July 1890, right at the end of the Boer War hostilities.

The 1905 issue of *Sands* directory shows C Carlisle Taylor in residence at 'Dunara'. Mr Taylor was evidently the General Manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of United States, which operated from the Equitable Building, George Street, Sydney. He appears to have stayed at 'Dunara' for only one year. (Letter from Jane Britten, Local History Librarian, Woollahra Council to Mrs Farkas, 23 September 1992)

The issues of *Sands* for 1906, 1907 and 1908 show the Hon. Charles Mackellar again at 'Dunara' while those for 1909, 1910 and 1911 list George Henry Greene, a fellow MLC, in residence. In her biography of Dorothea Mackellar, Hawley (p.63) implies that 'Dunara' was still under a lease to other

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parties in 1908 and the Mackellars stayed for a while at the Hotel Australia and later went to Buckland Chambers, 183 Liverpool Street, Sydney, where the two top floors were residential and used by members of the family a sort of townhouse when needed. (Hawley, p.63)

Information on Greene in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* would suggest that he was not permanently resident at 'Dunara', since during the period for which he is listed at Point Piper he was apparently engaged in building "an ornate Edwardian mansion 'landra'", his property near Grenfell in southwestern NSW. (Letter from Jane Britten, Local History Librarian, Woollahra Council to Mrs Farkas, 23 September 1992) The Hon. G H Greene MLC and Mrs Greene do seem to have used their time at 'Dunara' and the facilities the property offered to advantage in snaring eligible naval officers for two of their daughters. On a Thursday evening in 1909, the Greens entertained a number of guests at "a charming dance" at 'Dunara'. (*Figaro* 29 September 1910, p.5, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article84445292.pdf)

"The Chinese lanterns looked beautiful in the grounds, and a carpeted pathway led from the ball-room to the supper-room."

In October 1909 their younger daughter, Gladys Gwendoline Greene was engaged to Flag Lieutenant F C Fisher, right-hand-man to Admiral Sir Richard Poore, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy's Australia Station. (*Punch* 28 October 1909, p.38 accessed at nla.news-article176029229.3.pdf; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Richard_Poore,_4th_Baronet) The elder daughter was already married to another naval officer. Unfortunately, George Greene died on 22 December 1911 and was buried at 'landra'.

Sands for 1912 indicates 'Dunara' was occupied by Mr and Mrs C B Pharazyn who, in October that year hosted a dinner party at the Hotel Australia in honour of Mr and Mrs G W Johnston of Wellington, New Zealand. (*The Sun* 6 October 1912, p.21, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article228834193.3.pdf) In mid-1914 'Dunara' was taken by Mrs Johnstone, a well-known identity in horse-racing circles from Hyman, New Zealand. She was visited at 'Dunara' in June that year by her mother Mrs Baldwin. (*Sunday Times* (Sydney) 21 June 1914, p.7 accessed on Trove at nla.news-article120365093.3.pdf)

In the second half of 1915, Dorothea seems to have been at 'Dunara' again. An entry in her published diaries at that time headed 'Wednesday September 19', contains the following:

"On Tuesday night a terrific South-east gale began. It raged all Wednesday and did about £20,000 worth of damage in the eastern suburbs alone. I couldn't sleep for the howling of the wind and the pistol shots of my canvas [blind], but it was a nice cosy exhilarating contradictory night – when one didn't think of those at sea. Trees were torn down in all directions. It was the worst gale for very many years, and I wrote to Pat and did flowers (battered they were, and I was battered getting them). And Dorothy came in the afternoon. It was nice to have her". (Brunsdon 1990, pp.175-76)

Another entry, dated "Dunara Wednesday – Saturday December 8-11", reads:

"There was a cool change on Tuesday night and consequently one arrived sick and shivering, but it was nice to be home.....Saturday was a beautiful summer day, warm and cool blue and gold – green with the coral trees flaming everywhere so splendidly that it was like a thousand trumpets. As I walked down Wolseley Road I had a strange swinging feeling – and then suddenly I realised what it was – that if there were no War (What an if!) I'd be happy. Not for years have I had that." (Brunsdon 1990, pp.175-76)

Sir Charles Mackellar was reported to be ill at 'Dunara' in February 1916. (*Mirror of Australia*, 26 February 1916, p.420, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article104644309>)

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Lady Mackellar and Dorothea Mackellar of 'Dunara', Point Piper made donations to a Sydney fund to buy a battleplane for the war effort in August 1916. (*Sun* (Sydney) 20 August 1916, p.20, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223378789>)

Dorothea's poem 'In a southern garden', published circa 1918, may have been inspired by her times at 'Dunara' and the references to Camphor Laurel and the water 'at the garden's lowest fringe' tend to support this theory.

*When the tall bamboos are clicking to the restless little breeze,
And bats begin their jerky skimming flight,
And the creamy scented blossoms of the dark pittosporum trees,
Grow sweeter with the coming of the night.
And the harbour in the distance lies beneath a purple pall,
And nearer, at the garden's lowest fringe,
Loud the water soughs and gurgles 'mid the rocks below the wall,
Dark-heaving, with a dim uncanny tinge
Of a green as pale as beryls, like the strange faint-coloured flame
That burns around the Women of the Sea:
And the strip of sky to westward which the camphor laurels frame,
Has turned to ash-of-rose and ivory—*

*And a chorus rises valiantly from where the crickets hide,
Close-shaded by the balsams drooping down—
It is evening in a garden by the kindly water-side,
A garden near the lights of Sydney town!*

The Mackellar family was back at 'Dunara' during the later war years 1917-18 (Information provided to Mr Robin Brampton by Libby Watters, Woollahra Local History Centre in November 2010) but in September 1918 they were preparing to leave Point Piper to take up residence at Warrawee. (*Sunday Times* (Sydney) 8 September 1918, p.14, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article123129016) Sir Charles Mackellar had suffered a bout of pleurisy in 1916 and after World War I it was obvious something had to be done to get him away from the city and negotiations were begun through the family's lawyers regarding the sale of 'Dunara'.

The Kater family buy 'Dunara'

Circa September 1919 'Dunara' was sold to medical practitioner, merino sheep breeder and politician, Dr (later Sir) Norman Kater and his wife Jean Kater (née Mackenzie) after they had sold their property 'Nyrang' near Molong. (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kater-sir-norman-william-6896>) They also had a property 'Eenaweena' at Warren, presumably part of his family's Mumblebone stud. In 1924 Dr Kater inherited Mount Broughton near Moss Vale, where he spent most weekends. In November 1929, the Katers held a reception at 'Dunara' for the wedding of their daughter Mary to Douglas Tooth. (*Telegraph* (Brisbane) 16 November 1929, p.14, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article180088210.3.pdf) The garden was being prepared as a bower for the reception. (*The Daily Telegraph* 7 November 1929 p. 22, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article246819509>)

The Depression years

In June 1930 it was reported that a son had been born to Mr and Mrs Ranald Munro of 'Dunara', Point Piper. (*SMH*, 13 June 1930, p. 10, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16704541>) In December 1932, Australia was still in the grip of the Great Depression and the Sydney real estate market remained inactive. However, estate agents Raine and Horne Ltd had 'Dunara' listed for sale by auction on 15 December that year, with the property described thus:

"Point Piper, 'Dunara', 3 Wentworth-street, residence of about 17 rooms, with tennis court, garage and chauffeur's quarters." SMH 3 December 1932, p.11, accessed on Trove at nla.news-article28030115

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The best bid was £6,500 and negotiations were proceeding for the sale of the property at a figure in advance of this. (SMH, 17 December 1932, p. 10, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16938715>) The SHR listing has the property sold to a Mr Michaelis in 1931 but perhaps it was 1932 Or 1933. The SHR listing also records alterations carried out by architect G Keesing in 1933. These may be the alterations and additions carried out by builders R Wall & Son for Michaelis and Ors at 3 Wentworth Street. (Application 1933/20)

George Michaelis was in residence in 1935 when he wrote to Council of an 'objectionable smell' suffered at the house arising from the harbour below. The death of Mr George I Michaelis at his residence 'Dunara', Wentworth Street, Point Piper on 30 July 1936 was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. (SMH 31 July 1936, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17256510>)

'Dunara' during World War II

From February 1943 Dunara was occupied by the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF). (Sun, 14 February 1943, p. 8, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17840841>)

Spending their first weekend at Dunara, lovely old Point Piper home, CO Waafs are acquainted with their new barracks and its' charming grounds. Lawns overlooking the Harbor will make a perfect setting for 6 am physical exercises. After examining the tennis court, the girls are eagerly awaiting arrival of the net. Seven airy dormitories and a mosquito-proof balcony provide the sleeping accommodation, and mess-room and recreation hall open on to a wide terrace. Wireless and gramophone will be installed for the "moving-in" party to be held shortly, but the girls are also -hopeful that some kind benefactor will bestow a piano. Ex-dress designer Corporal J. Zahara is .in charge of the household at Dunara.

A photograph accompanying the above article showed ACW's Belly Margetts and Zoie Case with Cpl. J. Zahara admiring the waterlilies in the fishpond at 'Dunara'. To mark the second anniversary of the formation of the WAAAFs, Honorary Commandant Lady Gowrie sent messages of greetings and congratulations, a church service followed by a dinner was held at 'Dunara' (SMH, 18 March 1943, p. 3, accessed on Trove) and a Mothers' Day party was held at 'Dunara' on Sunday 14 March 1943. (SMH, 15 March 1943, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17840486>)

On 14 March 1945, RAAF airmen attended a dinner dance at 'Dunara' to help WAAAFs celebrate the fourth anniversary of their organisation. (SMH, 16 March 1945, p. 6, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17935438>)

In March 1946, the continued occupation by the RAAF of several stately homes in Point Piper, including 'Kilmory', 'Craig-y-mor', 'Dunara', Mount Luano', 'Linthgow', 'Hughendon' and 'Redleaf' was causing concern, labelled as a scandalous waste of money when accommodation in more suitable military camps was available. 'Dunara' was described as having "an ornamental fountain playing in the centre of a lawn around which sweep car drives to the stately entrance" and providing "restful quarters and messes for members of the WAAAF". (Sun, 10 March 1946, p. 7, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228799656>) A headline in the Sydney Sun described the occupied houses at Point Piper as an "RAAF Shangri La". (Sun, 14 March 1946, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228791327>) The paper's reporter stated:

"While thousands of families' lives have been disrupted by the housing shortage, RAAF personnel work in a Shangri-la atmosphere in seven large Point Piper homes. These homes, with 140 rooms, would provide between 30 and 40 flats if they were subdivided.

He used the telephone in each of the seven houses without challenge and claimed most of the houses had three bathrooms and bedrooms two to three times larger than the bedrooms in most houses. The same article claimed that Woollahra Municipal Council had "outspokenly favored [sic] the sub-division of large houses into flats." (Sun, 14 March 1946, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228791327>) Forty women's organisations asked the Army and air

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Ministers to make these mansions available as hostels for women. (*Sun*, 17 March 1946, p. 5, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228797929>) The following month, 'Dunara' was reported in the press as possibly becoming a guest house. (*Northern Star* (Lismore), 6 April 1946, p. 5, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article99111214>) By June 1946, the RAAF had decided to move out of these mansions. (*SMH*, 12 June 1946, p. 4, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17987345>)

"Personnel of ' R.A.A.F. Headquarters, Eastern Area, and other Sydney units. expect to be in their new quarters at Bradfield Park by July 1. At present Eastern Area occupies several mansions at Point Piper: Linlithgow, Kilmory, Craig-y-moor. Hughenden. Redleaf. Dunara, and Mount Lonana. The R.A.A.F. will maintain guards at the homes until they are vacated."

'Dunara' after World War II

In November 1948 it was reported that the Sydney Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) had recently taken possession of 'Dunara'. (*Hebrew Standard of Australasia*, 25 November 1948, p. 3, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131102960>)

*"At the moment the building has only been leased, and its selling is still subject to the consideration of the Treasury.' Tentative plans for the property include its immediate use for *Y and communal functions: This building is mainly intended- to become a centre for 'Y' youth. Ultimately a full-scale youth and communal centre, which will cater for the most modern requirements, will be established. The building was taken over as a guest house and will still be run as such for bona fide travellers. No structural alterations will be made until the housing shortage has been alleviated. It is planned to build tennis basketball and handball courts, a swimming pool, and bowling green. A hobby section will also be included. It is intended, to establish the best Jewish reference library in the southern hemi sphere. This will be done immediately; Social functions, such as weddings, bar mitzvahs, etc., will be catered for shortly, and many other developments are envisaged."*

The Young Men's Hebrew Association purchased 'Dunara' from the Michaelis family in 1949 (1949 Woollahra Municipal Council Rate Book) and proposed to subdivide the property. In January 1950 the NSW Board of Jewish Education announced that religious education classes would resume at a number of venues including the Rose Bay Centre at 'Dunara', Point Piper. (*Hebrew Standard of Australasia*, 19 January 1950, p. 5, accessed on Trove at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131105917>) In May 1956, Woollahra Council reported in the Council minutes that tentative plans had been submitted for a 'proposed subdivision of the property 'Dunara', 3 Wentworth Street, Point Piper (S/4012). The applicant was to be advised that 'favourable consideration will be given to the proposal subject to the proposed public garden and recreation space to be dedicated to Council being increased to a minimum of 4,000 square feet with a suggestion that such space be provided from Lot 9 of the proposed subdivision'. (WMC minutes 11 June 1956, pp.355-6)

Council then approved the application in July 1956 with the engineer reporting "The survey plans agree substantially with the tentative plans previously submitted. Public garden and recreation space has been increased to 4,219 square feet, and whilst the right-of-way will be private property, some drainage work should be constructed to convey water from driveway to Wunulla Road". (WMC Minutes 9 July 1956, p.412)

The 1955 valuation lists of the NSW Department of the Valuer General record that the 'Dunara' property had been transferred to Claude Edward Fortescue and on 19 November 1956 Emil E J Ford & Co, advised Council that they acted for C E Fortescue in the subdivision of the Du-Nara [sic] Gardens Estate. (WMC Minutes 26 November 1956, pp.691-2) Mr Fortescue was described as a wholesale butcher of 'Kiallacourt', Plumer Road, Rose Bay. (V G Valuation list of 1955)

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The valuations further record the transfers of the various allotments of the Dunara Estate in 1956 and 1957. The transfer of 15 ½ perches from the Dunara estate to Woollahra Council is recorded with the transfer number T2/57. (Letter from Libby Watters to Mr Robert Brampton, November 2010)
The 1957 lists record that Woollahra Council was the owner of 15 ½ perches with 8'10" front – described as 'public garden and recreation space. (Letter from Libby Watters to Mr Robert Brampton, November 2010)

The 1987 Heritage Branch report recommending a PCO over 'Dunara' states that 'Dunara' was purchased by a Mr Plowman in 1957 and that sympathetic modifications to the house were made by Prof. Leslie Wilkinson that year. Council's records of building applications for Wentworth Street in 1957 show alterations being carried out to Lot 10B by Prof. Wilkinson for C E Fortescue but the lot number is crossed out and a penciled notation says "see No. 8 Wunulla Road". (Application 1957/152) 'Dunara' is not mentioned in Falkiner's book on the works of Wilkinson. (Falkiner et al. 1982)

On 21 March 1978 'Dunara' was placed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE), a Commonwealth list of significant places. (SHR listing) The RNE has been replaced by the National Heritage List and is no longer maintained. In 1978 'Dunara' was up for sale and was sold by auction on 7 June 1979. (Russell 1980, p.76)

In 1986 'Dunara' was Classified by the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).
On 10 July 1987 a Permanent Conservation Order (PCO) was placed on 'Dunara', the curtilage being Lot 10B, DP 408926, as shown on the Heritage Plan HC 1417 at Figure 12. The PCO was subject to a schedule of Exemptions under Section 57(2) of the Heritage Act to allow for routine building maintenance and horticultural management.

In the Woollahra Significant Tree Survey of trees growing on private property carried out for Council by consultants Landscan in 1991, a specimen of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) and a specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine), both growing in the garden of 1 Wentworth Street, Point Piper, close to the boundary with Dunara Reserve were identified as significant single trees for their historical value and visual dominance at harbour, district and local scales.

In the same survey, of trees on public land, a single specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook's Pine) in Dunara Reserve was identified as a significant single tree for its historical value and visual dominance at harbour, district and local scales. The multi-stemmed development in the top part of the crown was also identified as an interesting feature of this tree.

The Statement of Significance for this tree in Dunara Reserve is set out below.

"The Cook Pine is of similar age, form and size to a neighbouring Pine of the same species located in 1 Wentworth Road [sic]. Both Pines are likely associated with the historically significant c.1882 "Dunara" estate. A dominant vertical element in its own right, the Pine on this property, moreover is of significance as part of a major historic grouping of Araucarias associated with the original estates in this precinct. This major grouping comprises the neighbouring Pine mentioned here as well as the Norfolk Island Pine in the street verge, in front of 1 Wolseley Road and the Cook Pine in Rose Bay Park, adjacent to the Rose Bay Police Station (formerly the gatehouse to Captain Piper's "Henrietta Villa", Furthermore, the Araucarias in Cranbrook School are a visual extension of this dominant theme. (Refer to Listings).

*These trees together form spectacular vertical accents and are an integral component of the early cultural planting of this area. Furthermore, the Cook Pines, with their distinctive curved trunks, dramatic scale, narrow branching pattern and very tall column-like appearance, are consistently rarer than the Norfolk Island Pines in the Municipality and are often more visually significant. Two large Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) are also of note in this reserve."*

In 1992 the owners of 'Dunara' were the Farkas family. (Letter from Council to Mrs Farkas dated 23 September 1992 in response to her enquiry regarding the history of the property)

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	<p>'Dunara' was listed as an item of environmental heritage in Woollahra LEP 1995 on 10 March 1995 and on 2 April 1999 was placed on the State Heritage Register.</p> <p>The SHR listing indicates that interior alterations were made to 'Dunara' c.1990 and that the front and rear gardens were re-landscaped with box (<i>Buxus</i> sp.) hedging, Gardenia sp. and grassed areas. A brick wall was constructed to the southern side (right of way access to two lots downhill and east of 'Dunara'). In 2006, the then owner advised the Heritage Branch that the front of 'Dunara' had a recent brush fence along it. In the southwestern corner of 'Dunara' was a dead Sydney Blue Gum (<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>). Another large tree, a Queensland Black Bean (<i>Castanospermum australe</i>) in Dunara's garden had also died and had been removed. In 2007, two air conditioning units and associated conduits had been installed on the southern wall of 'Dunara' without prior approval [of the Heritage Council]. (SHR listing for 'Dunara')</p> <p>At a meeting on 24 August 2015 Woollahra Council resolved:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. <i>THAT Council prepare a planning proposal to amend Schedule 4: Classification and reclassification of public land in Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014 (Woollahra LEP 2014) to reclassify the land known as Dunara gardens from 'community land' to 'operational land' with the intention of disposing of the land.</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">B. <i>THAT a further report be brought to Council on the findings of the public consultation including the public hearing and submissions.</i></p> <p>On 12 March 2018 Woollahra Council adopted a notice of motion in the following terms:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>"THAT Council requests staff to prepare and submit a report including a heritage assessment and draft heritage inventory sheet for Dunara Reserve to the Urban Planning Committee to facilitate consideration of Dunara Reserve (and its elements) being:</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;">1. <i>included in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan as a heritage item; and</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;">2. <i>listed as a heritage item of state significance on the NSW State Heritage Register."</i></p>
THEMES	
National historical themes	Developing local, regional and national economies; Building settlements, towns and cities; Developing Australia's cultural life; Marking the phases of life
State historical themes	Environment – Cultural Landscape; Land Tenure; Creative Endeavour; Persons
APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criterion (a)	Dunara Reserve is associated with a significant historical phase in the development of the cultural landscape of Point Piper and the former Dunara Estate. It retains physical fabric in the form of a significant specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Cook's Pine) which is a remnant of the historic plantings of 'Dunara' and which is a local landmark. It also contains two specimens of <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Island Date Palm) likely to have been part of the ornamental plantings in the 'Dunara' garden.
Historical association significance SHR criterion (b)	Dunara Reserve is a remnant of the Dunara Estate developed by Sir Charles Mackellar from the 1880s and associated with the famous Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar, who was born at 'Dunara' in 1885.
	Dorothea Mackellar was born in the house and lived at 'Dunara' for many years, probably being inspired by the garden to write her poem 'In a southern garden'. While it is highly likely that the specimen of Cook's Pine was planted by or for the Mackellar family, there is insufficient evidence at

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	<p>this stage for a direct association between any member of the Mackellar family or subsequent occupants with the particular part of the garden retained in Dunara Reserve. The original garden is so subdivided and altered that the reserve is assessed to satisfy the exclusion guidelines for this criterion.</p> <p>Dunara Reserve does not satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion B at a local or State level.</p>
<p>Aesthetic significance SHR criterion (c)</p>	<p>The cultural landscape of Dunara Reserve is aesthetically distinctive and the specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> has exceptional landmark qualities, with visual prominence at local, district and harbour scales.</p> <p>Dunara Reserve satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion C at a local level but not a State level.</p>
<p>Social significance SHR criterion (d)</p>	<p>Social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, but it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> is a species identified in the Woollahra Heritage Study as an important element in the cultural landscape of the local government area and therefore contributes to the community's sense of place. The specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> growing in Dunara Reserve has been recognised as a significant tree since the Woollahra Significant Tree Register was established in 1991, is listed as an item in Woollahra LEP 2014 and recognised as an important specimen in the authoritative publication <i>Horticultural flora of South-eastern Australia</i>.</p> <p>It is considered that Dunara Reserve satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion D at a local but not at a State level.</p>
<p>Technical/Research significance SHR criterion (e)</p>	<p>The lack of information about the date of planting and the maintenance history of the specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> and other plantings in the reserve and the limited archaeological or research potential of the reserve means that the place does not satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion E at either a local or at a State level.</p>
<p>Rarity SHR criterion (f)</p>	<p>While <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> is relatively rare in cultivation in the Woollahra local government area and in NSW generally, Dunara Reserve, a remnant of the former garden of 'Dunara', is not considered to be sufficiently rare as a cultural landscape in the local government area or in NSW generally to satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion F at a local or at a State level.</p>
<p>Representativeness SHR criterion (g)</p>	<p>While the specimens of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> and <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> growing on Dunara Reserve are representative of ornamental tree plantings in historic gardens within the Woollahra local government area, the reserve itself is not considered to be representative of those gardens since it is only a small remnant of the former 'Dunara' garden. The reserve is not considered to satisfy the inclusion guidelines for Criterion G at a local or at a State level.</p>
<p>Integrity</p>	<p>Integrity is "the state of being whole, entire or undiminished". (<i>Macquarie Dictionary</i>, 2nd ed., 1991)</p> <p>While the garden of the former 'Dunara' estate is much diminished in size and has lost most of its original and early plantings and other features, Dunara Reserve has retained its integrity since the lot is unchanged in size since it was created in the subdivision of 1956.</p> <p>Another term commonly used in the assessment of heritage items is intactness, a measure of the degree to which the item remains unaltered from its original configuration. Against this measure, Dunara Reserve retains the specimen of Cook's Pine and two specimens of Canary Island Date Palm from the original or early garden at 'Dunara' but other fabric in the reserve is more recent.</p>

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HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Heritage listing/s	The mature specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Cook's Pine) growing on Dunara Reserve is local heritage item No 277 on Schedule 5 in <i>Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014</i> .
	The mature specimen of <i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Cook's Pine) growing on Dunara Reserve is included on Woollahra Council's Significant Tree Register.

INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	C Betteridge	'Heritage Significance Assessment, Dunara Reserve, Wentworth Street, Point Piper'	2018	Woollahra Council
Written	Landarc Landscape Architects for Woollahra Municipal Council	Woollahra Municipal Council <i>Register of significant trees</i> , Volumes 1 to 4	1991	Woollahra Council

RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recommendations	<p>Include Dunara Reserve as an item of local heritage significance on Schedule 5, Woollahra LEP 2014.</p> <p>Manage Dunara Reserve to conserve and enhance its heritage significance through a proactive program of arboricultural and horticultural maintenance.</p> <p>Give consideration to interpreting the heritage significance of Dunara Reserve in culturally sensitive ways which may include material on Council's website and inclusion on a downloadable app for a walking tour of heritage sites in the Woollahra local government area.</p> <p>Prepare a Canopy Replenishment Strategy for the Reserve to provide for the staged replacement of the significant trees on the site, the timing of such replacement to be guided by arboricultural assessment of the vigour, condition and useful life expectancy of the trees.</p>

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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION			
Name of study or report	'Heritage Significance Assessment, Dunara Reserve, Wentworth Street, Point Piper'	Year of study or report	2018
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report	Chris Betteridge, Betteridge Heritage		
Inspected by	Chris Betteridge, on 19 April 2018		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Chris Betteridge	Date	15 June 2018

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IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	View south along the footpath of Wentworth Street at the entrance to Dunara Gardens, showing specimens of <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Island Date Palm) and <i>Ficus</i> sp. on Dunara Reserve.				
Image year	2018	Image by	C Betteridge	Image copyright holder	C Betteridge



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Image caption	View east along the entrance drive of Dunara Gardens, with 3 Dunara Gardens at left, 'Dunara' (10 Dunara Gardens) at centre and Dunara Reserve at right.				
Image year	2018	Image by	C Betteridge	Image copyright holder	C Betteridge



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Image caption	View east into Dunara Reserve, with glimpses of 9 Dunara Gardens (left of centre) and 1 Wentworth Street at right.				
Image year	2018	Image by	C Betteridge	Image copyright holder	C Betteridge



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Image caption	View southeast from the footpath of Wentworth Street between 3A and 3B Dunara Gardens, showing parts of the upper elevations of 'Dunara'. The Cook's Pine with co-dominant trunks to its upper canopy is the listed specimen on Dunara Reserve while the other Cook's Pine is the listed specimen on 1 Wentworth Street.				
Image year	2018	Image by	C Betteridge	Image copyright holder	C Betteridge



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Image caption	Telephoto view northwest from the northern footpath of New South Head Road, Rose Bay, with marina building and Regatta restaurant in the foreground. The Cook's Pines in Dunara Reserve and 1 Wentworth Street are very prominent elements in the landscape. The roof and part of the first-floor verandah of 'Dunara' can be seen to the right of centre.				
Image year	2018	Image by	C Betteridge	Image copyright holder	C Betteridge



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Image caption	View west from the footpath on the road into Rose Bay Wharf, west of Lyne Park, towards Dunara Reserve. The multi-stemmed Cook's Pine in Dunara Reserve and other Araucarias in the area are very prominent elements in the landscape.				
Image year	2018	Image by	C Betteridge	Image copyright holder	C Betteridge



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Image caption

Plan of the 1956 subdivision of the Dunara Estate, showing the house on a much-reduced curtilage as Lot 10 and Dunara Reserve as Lot 11.

Image year

1956

Image by

C Betteridge

Image copyright holder

Woollahra Council



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Image caption	The location of Dunara Reserve (coloured red) in the context of Point Piper.				
Image year	2018	Image by	Woollahra Council	Image copyright holder	Woollahra council



Cook pine

Item details

Name of item: Cook pine

Primary address: Dunara Gardens, Point Piper, NSW 2027

Local govt. area: Woollahra

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Dunara Gardens	Point Piper	Woollahra			Primary Address

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	1348
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra LEP 2014	277	23 May 15		

References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database number: 2711094

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<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2711094>

On 3 May 2018

Dunara

Item details

Name of item:	Dunara
Other name/s:	Dorothea Mackellar birthplace
Type of item:	Built
Group/Collection:	Residential buildings (private)
Category:	House
Location:	Lat: -33.8689850889 Long: 151.2522772270
Primary address:	10 Dunara Gardens, Point Piper, NSW 2027
Parish:	Alexandria
County:	Cumberland
Local govt. area:	Woollahra
Local Aboriginal Land Council:	La Perouse

Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOT	10B		DP	408926

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
10 Dunara Gardens	Point Piper	Woollahra	Alexandria	Cumberland	Primary Address
10 Wunulla Road	Point Piper	Woollahra	Alexandria	Cumberland	Alternate Address

Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
Mr George Farkas	Private	24 Mar 99

Statement of significance:

Dunara is the oldest remaining house in Point Piper. It is historically significant particularly for its associations with Dorothea McKellar - as her birthplace and for its association with the influences on her artistic development, including her education, cultural environment and the surrounding landscape. Architecturally the house is an excellent example of a well-crafted Victorian residence of the period (built c 1883). It is a two-storey stuccoed brick house with slate roof and fine cast iron verandah and balcony, retaining much of its original detail intact and which past and present owners have maintained in a sympathetic manner. (Heritage Branch report, 1987).

The stables have been partially demolished and the servants' wing likewise has been separated from the house and converted into another dwelling. The entrance hall is particularly fine, having delicately carved shell motif cedar door head trims to doors opening off it and with Minton tiles.

Date significance updated: 21 Nov 06

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Construction years: 1882-1883

Physical description:

Site & Garden:

Dunara retains a portion of front (street-facing) formal garden, to Dunara Gardens and a small more informal rear garden, facing east towards Rose Bay. This garden is a remnant of the former Dunara estate which was subdivided in the 1950s, creating Dunara Gardens and adjoining house lots and Dunara Reserve to the house's south-west, facing Dunara Gardens (Stuart Read, pers.comm., 6/9/2017).

The house no longer had its original bush leading to the harbour foreshores, but it retains an uninterrupted view of Rose Bay (to its east)(Carr, 1987).

House:

Victorian house built c 1883 (Russell (1980) says in 1882). It is a two storey stuccoed sandstock brick house with slate roof and fine cast iron and tiled verandah and balcony. The brick walls are 45cm thick. The stables have been partially demolished and the servants' wing likewise has been separated from the house and converted into another dwelling (Branch report, 1987).

The entrance hall is particularly fine, having delicately carved shell motif etched cedar door head trims to doors opening off it and with Minton floor tiles. The house covers 45 squares (ibid, 1987).

The entrance hall leads to the sitting room, drawing room, dining room and the staircase to the first floor. All rooms are spacious and have provision for fireplaces, six of which have fine marble fireplace surrounds remaining. There are four bedrooms and one study. Two bathrooms have been added though it is understood that the original fabric remains intact underneath (ibid, 1987).

The upper floor is reached by an elaborately carved staircase via a large first floor hall lit by an etched glass skylight. Windows and French doors are timber framed and generally glazed with large sheets of hand drawn plate glass. The ceilings have been

strengthened early this century by an artistic application of patterned battened mouldings. (ibid, 1987).

The front of Dunara has a recent brush-fence along it. In the south western corner of Dunara is a dead Sydney blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*). Another large tree, a Qld. black bean (*Castanospermum australe*) in Dunara's garden has also died and been removed. The whole cul-de-sac of Dunara Gardens (now 11 houses) was all part of Dunara's original estate, which stretched east to Wunulla Road, much of it grassed with a circular driveway (pers.comm., current owner, 2006).

Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:

House generally in very good condition (1987 Heritage Branch report).

Date condition updated:06 Sep 17

Modifications and dates:

1933 alterations by G.Keesing architect
c1939-45 acquired by RAAF and used as WAAF Officers' Mess.

Latter half, 20th century: stables partially demolished and the servants' wing likewise has been separated from the house and converted into another dwelling. The verandah to the south was removed under the terms of the covenant although some iron work was salvaged.

1954 subdivision alienating most of Dunara's grounds including circular driveway in lawn areas and bushland-clad access to Pt.Piper's eastern side foreshores. 11 houses are now around it off Dunara Gardens cul-de-sac, which did not exist prior.

1957 modifications (sympathetic) by Prof. Leslie Wilkinson (Heritage Branch Report, 1987)

c.1990 ensuite & dressing room for main bedroom installed in former hall access from second floor landing to rear (eastern) verandah. Bathroom installed to left hand side of front door (former room). Front and rear gardens re-landscaped with box (*Buxus* sp.) hedging, *Gardenia* sp. and grassed areas. Brick wall to southern side (right of way access to two lots downhill and east of Dunara).

The front of Dunara has a recent brush-fence along it. In the south western corner of Dunara is a dead Sydney blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*). Another large tree, a Qld. black bean (*Castanospermum australe*) in Dunara's garden has also died and been removed (pers.comm., current owner, 2006).

2007: air conditioning units (2) and conduits installed via southern wall of house & floor, without prior approval.

Further information:

Generally in very good condition (1987)

Current use:

residence

Former use:

Aboriginal land, rural estate, suburban estate residence

History

Historical notes:

Point Piper:

The Point's European history began as part of a 76ha land grant by Governor Macquarie to Captain John Piper in 1820. Piper had control of customs and all harbour matters, a lucrative position which enabled him to vastly increase the size of his land holding and build the finest house then in Sydney on the Point. He named it Henrietta Villa (after the second name of Governor Macquarie's wife, Elizabeth) and it quickly became the most prestigious social venue in town. However, Piper's flamboyant and extravagant lifestyle exceeded even his resources and he was soon deeply in debt. In 1827 it became apparent that he had embezzled 13,000 pounds from the customs revenues which, together with other debts, amounted to millions in modern values. The mortified Piper made a curiously grand suicide attempt, having himself rowed out into the harbour and, to the strains of his naval band, jumping overboard. He survived to retire to a more modest rural life.

Henrietta Villa was bought by one of his debtors, Daniel Cooper in 1827, the Vacluse part of his estate outside the Point being bought by William Charles Wentworth and the rest (Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay, Woollahra) to the firm of Cooper and Levey to whom Piper had owed another 20,000 pounds.

Daniel Cooper (1785-1853) had been transported to Australia in 1816 and became one of the colony's most successful merchants. His nephew, born in Lancashire in 1821 and also named Daniel Cooper, came to Australia in 1843 and was soon following in his Uncle's footsteps. Daniel the younger was already wealthy by the time he inherited his uncle's estate a decade later. He now had estates throughout the colony, including a large chunk around Double Bay,

much of which was Piper's former estate. In 1856 Cooper began a great mansion called Woollahra House on Point Piper, on the site of the Captain Piper's Henrietta Villa. In the same year Cooper became first Speaker of the new Legislative Assembly. He resigned from the Speakership in 1860 and returned to England a year later, became the Agent-General for NSW, was made the First Baronet of Woollahra in 1863, and died in 1902. Woollahra House was not completed until 1883 by his son, William. Some subdivision of the Point also began around that time. It was suggested as a replacement for Government House around 1901 (then occupied by the new Governor-General) but the offer was not taken up by the government and the estate was progressively sold off and the house demolished in 1929 (Spindler, undated).

Point Piper Estate:

In the 1820s business partners Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey began acquiring land that included the substantial Point Piper Estate comprising 1130 acres in the Woollahra district that had been amassed by Captain John Piper since 1816. Following some financial difficulties Piper's land was conveyed to Cooper and Levey in 1826. Their title to the land was confirmed in 1830 and it became the sole property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. On Cooper's death in 1853, his nephew, also Daniel Cooper (later Sir Daniel Cooper), was appointed trustee of the Point Piper Estate which his uncle had bequeathed to his nephew's eldest son (also Daniel Cooper)(Woollahra Municipal Council/Local History/Fast Facts/p).

Point Piper Grant:

Now a prestige living area, it was part of a 190 acre (76 ha.) grant to Captain John Piper in 1820 who was 'Naval Officer' of the Colony at the time. After Piper found himself in financial difficulties the grant was bought in 1827 by Daniel Cooper who bequeathed it to the son of his nephew both also called Daniel. The son sold the grant to his brother, William, for 100,000 pounds who in 1883 built Woollahra House. The first subdivision on the Point took place around 1880 with the release of foreshore land around Woollahra House in 1899 (Woollahra Municipal Council/Local History/Fast Facts/p).

The Mackellars

John Mackellar married Euphemia Jackson and emigrated with their family to Australia from Dundee, Scotland in 1839. Their three sons were Keith, a sea trader, Frederick, who in 1839 became the first salaried officer at the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary, later Sydney Hospital, and Charles, who became a surgeon.

Frederick had a son, Charles Kinnaird Mackellar (1844-1926) who married Marion Isobel Buckland (1854-1933) in 1877. There were four children of this marriage: Keith; Eric; Isobel Marion Dorothea (1885-1968) and Malcolm. Keith was killed in action in South Africa on 11 July 1890, during the Boer War. He was second lieutenant in the Australian Volunteer Horse Squadron.

Sir Charles Kinnaird Mackellar (1844-1926) was born in Sydney and educated at Sydney Grammar School and the University of Glasgow medical school, graduating in 1871. He returned to Australia and practiced in Sydney, becoming a noted physician and sociologist (Australian Dictionary of Biography/Dorothea Mackellar obituary, Sydney Morning Herald).

Charles registered with the Medical Board of NSW in 1872. In 1873-77 he was honorary surgeon at the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary (Sydney Hospital from 1881), where his father had been the first salaried officer (Mitchell, 1986). He advised the Government on hygiene and preventative medicine and helped establish the North Head Quarantine Station and the Coast, or Prince Henry Hospital. In 1883, he became president of the new Board of Health and president of the NSW branch of the British Medical Association, which was set up in 1880.

Mackellar was a physician at the hospital in 1882 and a director in 1884-1903. He was also a director of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital 1886-1917. He worked 'stupendously' at general practice in early years. In 1877 he married Marion Buckland, acquired considerable pastoral interests and in 1896 succeeded his father-in-law as a director of the Bank of NSW, of which he was president in 1901-23 apart from absences abroad in 1904-5 and 1912-13. He was chairman, board member and trustee of a number of other companies, in insurance, sugar refining, etc (ibid, 1986).

His parliamentary career included serving in the Legislative Council from 1885. He became a Federal Senator in 1903 but his commitments precluded attendance at Melbourne sittings so he resumed his Legislative Council seat.

He was president of the Children's Relief Department from 1903 and published a pamphlet on 'Parental Rights and Parental Responsibility' (1903) and a treatise on 'The Child, The Law and the State' (1907); he established homes for invalid children at Mittagong, for disabled children at Parramatta and for delinquents who had been before the Children's Court, at Ormond House. In 1913, Mackellar reported on the treatment of delinquent and neglected children in Europe and the United States.

Mackellar was knighted in 1912 and appointed KCMG in 1916; he died in Sydney on 14 July 1926 (Australian Dictionary of Biography/Dorothea Mackellar obituary, Sydney Morning Herald).

Marion MacKellar (1854-1933)

Marion Isobel Mackellar (nee Buckland)(1854-1933) was the second daughter of Thomas Buckland of Kent, a wealthy merchant, pastoralist and banker. Buckland became a director and president of the Bank of NSW, a position in which he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Charles, from 1901-1923. Marion married Charles Mackellar

in August 1877 at St.Paul's Church, Sydney. They had three sons and a daughter, Dorothea (Anderson, 2008, 14-15).

Dorothea MacKellar (1885-1968)

Dorothea Mackellar was born (on 1 July 1885: Anderson, 2008, 15) at the family home, Dunara, built by the Mackellars on five acres of land (Woollahra Council say 2 acres) at Rose Bay (Point Piper). The two-storied residence was surrounded by servants' quarters, stable, coach house, numerous outbuildings and magnificent gardens. Dunara - Aboriginal for 'gunyah on the slope of a hill', was one of many residences in Sydney owned by the Mackellar family (Anderson, 2008, 14-15). She spent most of her childhood here (Carr, 1987).

Dorothea was educated privately, travelled extensively (Kingston, 1986) and educated at the University of Sydney. She became fluent in French, Spanish, German and Italian and attended some lectures at the University of Sydney. Her youth was protected and highly civilised. She moved easily amongst the society of Sydney's intellectual and administrative elite, life on her family's country properties and among their friends in London (ibid, 1986).

While staying at Torryburn, a family property in the Allyn River valley (in the Hunter), she experienced the breaking of a drought and subsequently wrote the patriotic verse "My Country". This poem was published under the title 'Core of My Heart' in "The Spectator" on 5 September 1908, when she was visiting London, and reprinted in "The Sydney Mail" 21/10/1908 and in most of Australia's leading newspapers and journals, on occasions with minor wording changes. It quickly became Australia's best known lyric poem (Anderson, 2008, 15). The poem captured the spirit of nationalism developing in the early 20th century.

In 1911 her first book of verse, 'The closed door and other verses' was published in Melbourne. The appearance of 'My Country' in this book is thought to be the first under its more familiar title.

Dorothea lived for a time at Darling Point. She worked for the Red Cross and was filled with energy and zets, wanting to do things for people, putting a lot of energy into women's causes (unattrib., 2017, 5).

Dorothea travelled widely in Europe, Asia and South America and published three more collections of verse: 'The Witch Maid' (1914); 'Dreamharbour' (1923); and 'Fancy Dress' (1927). Her novel, 'Outlaw's Luck' (1922) reflected impressions of Argentina and her poems included translations from Spanish, German and Japanese. She also wrote two other novels in collaboration with Ruth Bedford, but ill health had virtually ended her literary career when 'Fancy Dress' appeared. She was appointed OBE in the 1968 New Year Honours list and died at the Scottish Hospital, Sydney on 14 January 1968 (Anderson, 2008, 15: unattrib., 2017, 5) says she died in a Randwick

nursing home). Prior to this she had spent a good deal of time living in relative seclusion at her house, Tarrangaua, in Lovett Bay, Pittwater (Stuart Read, pers.comm.). 'The Poems of Dorothea Mackellar', including 'My Country' and a brief memoir by Adrienne Matzenik (nee Howley) was published in 1971 (Anderson, 2008, 19). On her 82nd birthday in 1967, Dorothea told two friends, Gordon Williamson and Dorothea Macmillan, that the famous poem was completed in the apartments above her father's consulting rooms in Buckland Chambers, overlooking Hyde Park (183 Liverpool Street), Sydney (Anderson, 2008, 20-21).

Dorothea was buried at Waverley Cemetery. In 2017 poet Libby Harthorn and the Society of Women Authors of NSW crowd-funded \$2000 towards the cost of placing a new marble etched grave tablet on Dorothea's grave, which quotes her most-famous lines from 'My Country': 'I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains'. This tablet was unveiled in a ceremony with the Mayor of Waverley, John Wakefield (unattributed, 2017, 5).

It is a good example of the spacious and well crafted residence of the period. (AHC from nominator, modified Read, S., 11/2006).

Dunara:

Dunara was built c 1883 (1882 says Russell, 1980, 76; Woollahra Council say 1882-4) by distinguished physician, MLA and philanthropist, Sir Charles McKellar*1 was the birthplace (Russell, 1980, 67) and the childhood home of his daughter, Dorothea, the famous poetess*2.

It is a good example of the spacious and well crafted residence of the period. (AHC from nominator, modified Read, S., 11/2006).

An 1887 photograph shows the bushland surrounding Dunara (downhill to its east, south and to the north) the house is on a cleared rise above Rose Bay)(SMH, 1978).

In 1919 the house was sold to merino sheep breeder, Sir Norman Kater (1919) and in 1931 sold to Mr Michaelis. Some alterations were carried out by architect G.Keesing in 1933 and when bought by Mr Plowman in 1957 further modifications of a sympathetic nature were made by Professor Leslie Wilkinson (Carr, 1987).

It was later acquired by the RAAF and has been used as a WAAF Officer's Mess (Carr, 1987).

The property was subdivided in 1954, alienating most of the grounds. Although bushland no longer leads to the foreshores (to the east side of Pt. Piper), Dunara still has an uninterrupted view of Rose Bay. (Heritage Branch report, 1987).

The whole cul-de-sac of Dunara Gardens (now 11 houses) was all part of Dunara's original estate, which stretched east to Wunulla Road, much of it grassed with a circular driveway west of the front door (pers. comm., current owner, 2006).

In 1978 Dunara was up for sale.
Russell (1980) notes it was sold by auction in 1979.

"And a chorus rises valiantly from
where the crickets hide,
Close-shaded by the balsams
drooping down -
It is evening in a garden by the
kindly waterside,
A garden near the lights of
Sydney town!"
(from the poem "In a Southern Garden", in which Dorothea Mackellar
may have been thinking of her early home Dunara.

Dorothea Mackellar spent many of her early years at Dunara, a Georgian mansion built by her father on a large property fronting Rose Bay. Now (1978) long after the once-expansive grounds have been subdivided (c.1950), Dunara is to be sold. In "Point Piper Past & Present" Nesla Griffiths says: "Miss Dorothea Mackellar tells me that Dunara is a native word meaning 'the house on the hill' and that her father built his home between 1882 and 1884. It is still standing, and is one of the few with a drive to the door, with a lovely view eastward, and in those days gracious gardens and beautiful trees."

Dunara was bought by Dr.N.W.Kater (later Sir Norman) in 1919 and sold to Mr Michaelis in 1931. It was one of the houses taken over by the RAAF and has been used as a WAAF Officers' mess. The house has two storeys, covering about 45 squares, a colonial verandah on the ground floor and a balcony on the first floor, both with wrought iron lacework.

Bushland no longer leads to the foreshores but Dunara still has an uninterrupted view of Rose Bay.

The sandstock walls of the house are 45 cm thick and the front door is cedar with etched white glass panels. The Minton tiled vestibule inside the front porch leads to the sitting room, drawing room, dining room and cedar staircase to the second floor. There are 5 bedrooms, some of which contain period features like bay windows and the original chain window sashes. All have marble fireplaces (there are seven in the house) cedar and mahogany joinery, and high ceilings.

The main bedroom is huge, and it has two floor-to-ceiling windows leading to the balcony, a wall of built-in cupboards and a study annexe. The present owners, who have been progressively restoring the mansion since they moved in 21 years ago (1957), plan to move to

a smaller home. Richardson & Wrench Ltd., of Double Bay, will auction the property on November 24 (Garry Maddox, Property Reporter, Sydney Morning Herald, 21/10/1978).

The house was sold by auction on 7 June 1979 (Russell, 1980, 67).

Mr Andre Korda, the present (1987) owner (at time of PCO) was interested in the heritage aspect of the Dunara Gardens property and nominated it for the protective order (Bob Carr, Minister for Planning & Environment and Minister for Heritage, Press Release, 1987).

*1

Sir Charles Kinnaird Mackellar (1844-1926) was a physician, politician and businessman. Only son of Frederick Mackellar (d.1863) physician, from Dundee, Scotland and wife Isabella, nee Robertson, widow of William McGarvie. Educated at Sydney Grammar, Charles moved with his family to the Port Macquarie district c. 1860. He spent several years on the land before proceeding to Scotland to attend the University of Glasgow (MB, Ch.M., 1871). Returning to Sydney he registered with the Medical Board of NSW on 25/3/1872. In 1873-7 he was honorary surgeon at the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary (Sydney Hospital from 1881) where his father had been first salaried medical officer: (Sir) Henry Normand MacLaurin also joined the staff in 1873 and cemented one of the most important friendships of Dr Mackellar's life. He was a physician at the hospital in 1882 and a director in 1884-1917. He worked 'stupendously' at general practice in early years.

In September 1881 Dr Mackellar joined the board, led by Dr Alfred Roberts, which was appointed to control the first serious smallpox epidemic in NSW and was gazetted as the Board of Health on 6/1/1882. In July Mackellar became Government Medical Adviser, health officer for Port Jackson, chairman of the Immigration Board, and an official visitor to the hospitals for the insane at Gladesville & Parramatta. He was also ex officio emigration officer for Port Jackson, and a member of the Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board. In July 1883 he campaigned for a federal quarantine system and was appointed president of the Board of Health in August. Contemporaries believed that Mackellar was solely responsible for the organisation of the department but he deferred to Roberts: 'it is rather that I doggedly and persistently followed his lines than that I formulated any original scheme of my own' - the Mackellar motto was Perseverando.

Persuaded by the attorney-general W.B.Dalley, a private patient, Mackellar resigned his official appointments in August 1885 and was nominated to the Legislative Council to promote public health legislation he had helped to draft, but which lapsed with the resignation of the Stuart government in October. He was an ordinary member of the Board of Health until 1925. In 1886-7 as vice-president of the Executive Council and briefly secretary for Mines Mackellar represented the Jennings government in the Representative Council.

He introduced the Dairies Supervision Act of 1886 which helped to reduce infant mortality. Except for October-November 1903, when he was appointed to the Commonwealth Senate, he remained in the council until 1925. In 1903-4 he chaired the Royal Commission on the decline in the birth rate, dominating its proceedings in a manner uncharacteristic of his usually careful approach to scientific enquiry.

In 1882-5 Mackellar had been a member of the State Children Relief Board. In 1902-14 he was president, and was identified with the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act (1905) which created children's courts and the probationary system. He was soon at loggerheads with his under-secretary Peter Board, largely over the extension of the Board's activities into areas not envisaged by its Act. Criticism, muted while Mackellar remained in office, became public not long after his departure.

Until at least 1912, Mackellar had been convinced that environmental factors determined the development of the young. Enquiries abroad leading to his report as Royal Commissioner on the Treatment of Neglected and Delinquent Children in Great Britain, Europe and America (1913) caused him to modify his views. With Professor D.A. Welsh he published an essay, *Mental Deficiency* (1917) advocating better training and care of the feeble minded, and suggesting their sterilisation on eugenic grounds. Mackellar consistently lectured and published pamphlets to propagate social reform. He was admired for his reluctance to align himself with any political faction, and for his unselfish devotion to the public interest. Knighted in 1912, he was appointed KPMG in 1916.

On 9/8/1877 Mackellar had married Marion (d.1933) daughter of Thomas Buckland. He acquired considerable pastoral interests and in 1896 succeeded his father-in-law as a director of the Bank of NSW, of which he was president in 1901-23 apart from absences abroad in 1904-5 and 1912-13. Mackellar was chairman of the Gloucester Estate Co. in its later years and succeeded MacLaurin as chairman of the Mutual Life & Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd; he had been a trustee in 1911-14. He was also a director of Pitt, Son & Badgery Ltd.; the Union Trustee Co. of Australia Ltd.; United Insurance Co. Ltd.; Colonial Sugar Refining Co.; Australian Widows' Fund; and Equitable Life Assurance Co.Ltd. of which he was medical director. He was surgeon in the Volunteer Rifles from 1872; chairman of the medical section of the Royal Society of NSW in 1881; founding councillor and in 1883-4 president of the NSW branch of the British Medical Association; examiner in medicine at the University of Sydney in 1889-1901; vice-president and in 1907-14 president of the Sydney Amateur Orchestral Society; inaugural vice-president of the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies in 1918; and a member of the Australian and Athenaeum Clubs, Sydney.

By 1923 Mackellar had resigned most of his business appointments as health and memory deserted him. He died at his residence Rosemont,

Woollahra on 14/7/1926 and was buried in the Anglican section of the Waverley cemetery. His estate, valued for probate at 39,205 pounds, was left in trust to his wife and on her death in 1933 to their surviving children Eric, Malcolm and Dorothea. His eldest son Keith Kinnaird had been killed in action in South Africa in 1900. Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1891-1939)(SMH, 1978).

One of Dr Mackellar's special interests was public health and he did pioneering work with juvenile delinquents and mentally defective children; he was knighted for his services to medicine. Later he became a Member of the Legislative Council of NSW, and in 1903 was elected a Senator for NSW (Russell, 1980, 67).

*2

Isobel Marion Dorothea Mackellar (1885-1968) was born at Dunara, Point Piper, Sydney, third child (of four children and the only girl in the family (Russell, 1980, 67)) of native-born parents (Sir) Charles Kinnaird Mackellar and his wife Marion, daughter of Thomas Buckland. She was educated at home and travelled extensively*3 with her parents, becoming fluent in French, Spanish, German and Italian, and also attended some lectures at the University of Sydney. Her youth was protected and highly civilised. She moved easily between the society of Sydney's intellectual and administrative elite, life on her family's country properties, and among their friends in London.

Dorothea began writing while quite young and surprised her family when magazines not only published but paid for her verses and prose pieces. On 5/9/1908 a poem, 'Core of my heart', which she had written about 1904, appeared in the London "Spectator". It reappeared several times in Australia before being included as "My Country" in her first book, "The closed door, and other verses" (Melbourne, 1911). She published "The Witchmaid, and other verses" in 1914 and two more volumes of verse (1923 & 1926), also a novel "Outlaw's luck" (London, 1913) set in Argentina. With Ruth Bedford, a childhood friend, she wrote two other novels (1912, 1914). During World War 1 and as a result of its frequent inclusion in anthologies, 'My Country' became one of the best known Australian poems, appealing to the sense of patriotism fostered by the war and post-war nationalism.

Photographs of Dorothea in her twenties show her to have been then an ideal image of the Australian girl, pretty, sensitive, and fashionable. She was said to be a strong swimmer, a keen judge of horses and dogs. Her verse shows that she was cultivated and spirited, her novels that she was hopelessly romantic. Between 1911 and 1914 she was twice engaged. The first engagement she broke because the man was over-protective; the second lapsed through misunderstanding and lack of communication after the outbreak of war. Her writing, once the product of youthful passion and enthusiasms, became increasingly souvenirs of travel or dependent on nature for inspiration. She was unable to write of her disappointment in love except in powerful translations from little-known Spanish and German poets.

Despite her 'loathing all restrictions and meetings' Dorothea Mackellar was honorary treasurer of the Bush Book Club of NSW and active in the formation in 1931 of the Sydney P.E.N Club. She became responsible for her aging parents, and apparently wrote little after her father's death in 1926. Her mother died in 1933 and Dorothea, 'a not particularly robust dormouse', was frequently in poor health, spending ten years in a Randwick nursing home. Yet she outlived her younger brothers and was able to keep both Cintra, Darling Point, and a house at Church Point on Pittwater. She was appointed O.B.E just before she died on 14/1/1968 in the Scottish Hospital, Paddington, after a fall at home. She was cremated after a service at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point and her ashes laid in the family vault in Waverley Cemetery. Her estate was valued for probate at over \$1,580,000.

H.M.Green describes her as a 'lyrist of colour and light' in love with the Australian landscape. She herself 'never professed to be a poet. I have written - from the heart, from imagination, from experience 'some amount of verse'. Privileged and unusual, she was also typical of many Australian women of her generation in the contrast between the inspired vigour of her youth and the atrophy of her talent and vitality through lack of use. (Beverley Kingston in The Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1891-1939, p.298-9).

*3

Russell (1980) adds she became friendly with Joseph Conrad and his wife in London, where she lived for some years before World War 1. He adds she lived for some time at Rosemont, Woollahra and from the 1930s at Cintra, Darling Point Road, Darling Point.

In 2017 Woollahra Municipal Council resolved to reclassify adjacent Public Reserve land titled 'Dunara Gardens' to the west of Dunara's SHR curtilage from 'community' to 'operational land' to allow its sale. 67 objections from 55 people were received and referred to an Independent Chair's review of the reclassification of the land. The chair's report on reclassification is due in April 2018. A March 2018 unanimous Council motion led to a direction to staff to investigate whether reserve meets criteria for LEP and SHR listing. Both will go to a full Council meeting. WWC, 21/3/18).

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
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<p>1. Environment- Tracing the evolution of a continent's special environments</p>	<p>Environment - naturally evolved-Activities associated with the physical surroundings that support human life and influence or shape human cultures.</p>	<p>Changing the environment-</p>
<p>3. Economy- Developing local, regional and national economies</p>	<p>Environment - cultural landscape-Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings</p>	<p>Developing local, regional and national economies- National Theme 3</p>
<p>3. Economy- Developing local, regional and national economies</p>	<p>Environment - cultural landscape-Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings</p>	<p>Landscapes and gardens of domestic accommodation-</p>
<p>4. Settlement- Building settlements, towns and cities</p>	<p>Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.</p>	<p>Residential-</p>
<p>4. Settlement- Building settlements, towns and cities</p>	<p>Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.</p>	<p>Adapted heritage building or structure-</p>
<p>4. Settlement- Building settlements, towns and cities</p>	<p>Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.</p>	<p>housing (suburbs)-</p>
<p>4. Settlement- Building settlements, towns and cities</p>	<p>Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.</p>	<p>gentlemen's residences-</p>

4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	A Picturesque Residential Suburb-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	Housing famous families-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	Housing professional people-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Creating works of literature-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Architectural styles and periods - Victorian (late)-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Domestic life-Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	Living in suburbia-
8. Culture-Developing cultural	Domestic life-Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	Valuing women's contributions-

institutions and ways of life		
9. Phases of Life-Marking the phases of life	Persons-Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	Associations with Dorothea McKellar, Poetess-
9. Phases of Life-Marking the phases of life	Persons-Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	Associations with the Hon. Sir Charles McKellar Doctor, MP, philanthropist-

Recommended management:

Recommendations


Management Category	Description	Date Updated
Recommended Management	Produce a Conservation Management Plan (CMP)	
Recommended Management	Prepare a maintenance schedule or guidelines	
Recommended Management	Carry out interpretation, promotion and/or education	

Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date

57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Heritage Act	<p>Record converted from HIS events</p> <p>Order Under Section 57(2) to exempt the following activities from Section 57(1):</p> <p>(1) The maintenance of any building or item on the site where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing material; and</p> <p>(2) All horticultural management including the repair and maintenance of existing fences, gates and garden walls.</p>	Jul 10 1987
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS HERITAGE ACT 1977 Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR Minister for Planning Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for</p>	Sep 5 2008

Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.

 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00539	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		00539	10 Jul 87	117	3917
Local Environmental Plan			10 Mar 95		
National Trust of Australia register	1986				
Register of the National Estate			21 Mar 78		

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Anderson, Val.	2008	The Dorothea Mackellar 'My Country' Paterson Valley Connection	
Written	Bastians, Kate	2018	'Locals fight for open space'	

Written	Kingston, Beverley	1986	'Mackellar, Isobel Marion Dorothea (1885-1968)', in Australian Dictionary of Biography, vol.10	View detail
Written	Mitchell, Ann M.	1986	'Mackellar, Sir Charles Kinnaird (1844–1926)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, vol.10	View detail
Written	Russell, Eric	1980	Woollahra - a history in pictures	
Written	Spindler, Graham		CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY LOOP WALK L6: POINT PIPER - 1	View detail
Written	Woollahra Municipal Council		'Point Piper (grant; estate)' in 'P', in 'Local History: Fast Facts'	View detail
Written	Woollahra Municipal Council		'Dunara' in 'D', in 'Local History Fast Facts'	View detail

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Heritage Office

Database number: 5045694

File number: EF14/5899; S90/3423; HC33435

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Dunara

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

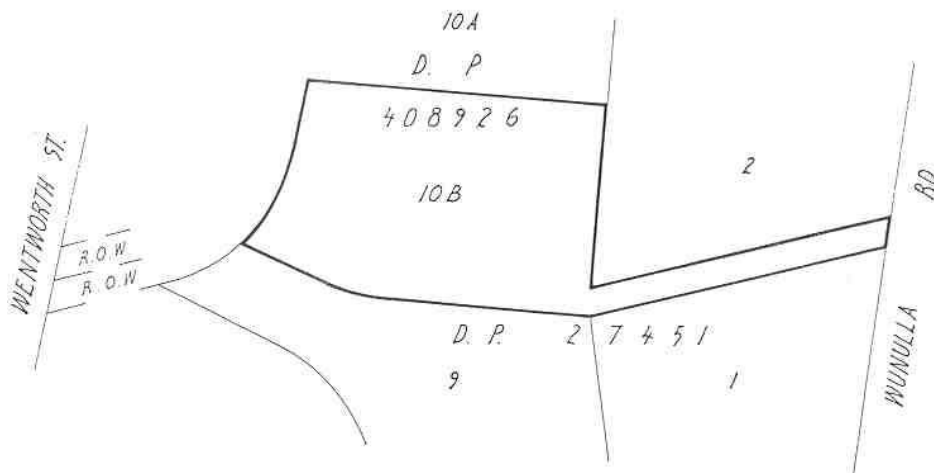
PLAN

UNDER THE HERITAGE ACT, 1977

Description Lot 10B, D.P. 408926
'Dunara'

Mun./Shire/City Woollahra Locality Point Piper

Parish of Alexandria County of Cumberland



Scale 1:500

SUBJECT LAND SHOWN THUS:

THIS IS THE PLAN REFERRED TO IN ~~INTERIM~~ PERMANENT CONSERVATION ORDER No. 539

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No. 117 OF 10.7.87

PLAN APPROVED

PLAN NUMBER

FILE H.C. 33435

DRAWN BY R.E.B. 27-5-87

for  SECRETARY HERITAGE COUNCIL

H.C.

1417

PCO Plan Number 539

Image by: Heritage Council of NSW

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Dunara

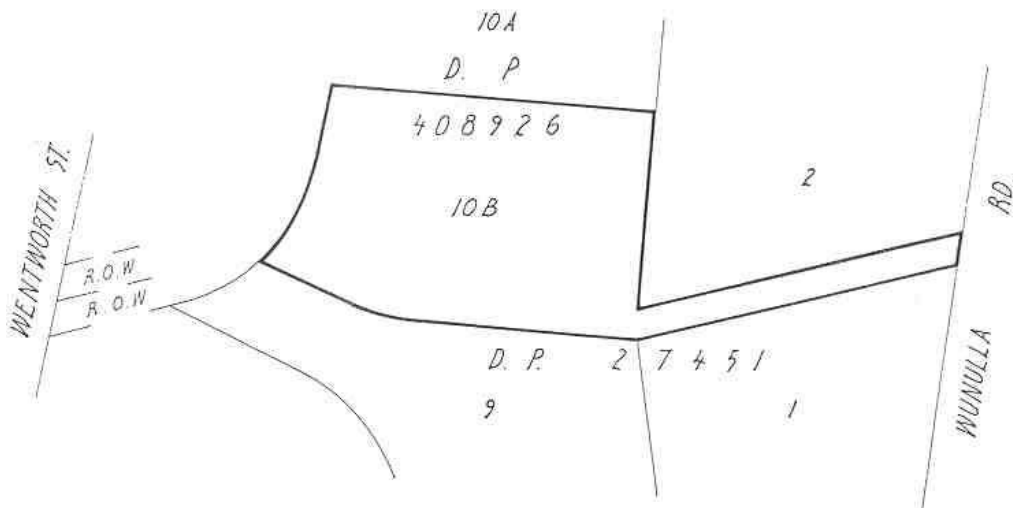
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HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PLAN

UNDER THE HERITAGE ACT, 1977

Description *Lot 10B D.P. 408926*
'Dunara'
 Mun/Shire/City *Woollahra* Locality *Point Piper*
 Parish of *Alexandria* County of *Cumberland*



Scale *1:500*

SUBJECT LAND SHOWN THUS:

THIS IS THE PLAN REFERRED TO IN ~~INTERIM~~/PERMANENT CONSERVATION ORDER No. *539*

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No. *117* OF 10.7.87

PLAN APPROVED

PLAN NUMBER
H.C.

FILE *H.C. 33435*

DRAWN BY *R.E.B. 27-5-87*

for *[Signature]*
SECRETARY HERITAGE COUNCIL

1417

Accessed at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045694>

On 3 May 2018

ITEM DETAILS			
Current name of proposed item	Walter McGrath House		
Former name			
Item type	Archaeological, Built, Landscape, Movable/Collection, Area/Group/complex Built		
Significant area or group	Name		
Address	Number 4	Street Dunara Gardens	Suburb Point Piper
Property description by Council	Lot 4	DP 27451	
Original owner	Name Mr & Mrs Walter McGrath Jnr. (from BA drawings)		Address
Use	Current Residence		Former Residence
Statement of significance	Features typical of the Wrightian (Prairie School) approach are combined with the architect's own individual organic-inspired elements to create a modern expressionist building of great interest, with Structuralist style influences evident in the exposed frame form. The building is associated with the architect Peter Muller, an important mid to late 20 th century Australian architect of international note. The powerful geometrical themes and massing of the living wings of the house make the building a very good example of the early part of Muller's career and reflect his primary role in introducing the Prairie School approach to design to Australia in the 1950s. The place is of some significance to groups who appreciate Australian architectural history, as evidenced by its inclusion on the RAI Register of 20 th Century Buildings of Significance.		
Level of significance	State Yes - Moderate	Local Yes - High	
Heritage listings	Woollahra Council LEP 1995 (as amended): No State Heritage Register / Inventory: No / No Royal Australian Institute of Architects (NSW Chapter) Register of 20 th Century Buildings of Significance: Yes National Trust of Australia (NSW): No		
DESCRIPTION			
Designer	Peter Muller [company structure at the time unknown]		
Builder	Unknown, however Peter Muller recalls that the client, Mr McGrath, used a building foreman, with all accounts and purchases paid directly by the client.		
Construction years	1957		
Physical description	<p>No. of Storeys: 2 storeys with lower level garage and service area Roof: Metal tray roofs with overhanging stained timber awnings Walls: Grey face brick with some cement render, and turquoise-painted fibre cement tile in diamond-pattern cladding. Chevron motif parapet decoration. Windows & Doors: Polished timber framed front door, flush timber varnished garage door, aluminium frame windows. Precast cement planter boxes in prismatic form below triangular-shape windows. Form & Structure: Courtyard form with two pavilions; one two-storey pavilion consisting of bedrooms, and one three-storey pavilion consisting of kitchen, dining, entertaining, breakfast, and study, surmounted by two bedrooms. Courtyard consists of swimming pool, gallery, and garden. Style or period: Abstract Modern style with Structuralist and Prairie School influences. Interiors: Not inspected. BA drawings show: lowest floor consisting of double garage, utility room, and winter drying room; middle level consisting of bedrooms 3, 4, 5, and 6, gallery, entertaining</p>		

Woollahra 2004 *heritage inventory*

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

	<p>area, study, dining, kitchen, breakfast room, kitchen, and toilets; upper floor consisting of bedrooms 1 and 2, both with ensuites. Interior finishes are generally stone / carpet over concrete floors, timber/plywood walls and ceilings.</p> <p>Contribution to streetscape: Located near the end of a short, narrow dog-leg drive, the house makes a surprising and unusual contribution to the streetscape, which is dominated by the 19th century villa, Dunara, and other early to mid 20th century houses of substantial size in traditional materials, colours, and form.</p> <p>Landscaping: No landscaping of note evident.</p>
Physical condition	In good order
Modification and dates	No documented modifications except 1962 siteworks.
Archaeological potential	<p>Due to the long period of European occupation of this site the archaeological potential for Aboriginal cultural material is low.</p> <p>There is little potential for archaeological remains relating to the later-19th century development of the area due to disturbance caused by construction of the subject building.</p>
Further comments	<p>Inspected externally only.</p> <p>When asked how this building fits into his career's works, Muller replied that he sees it "as an expression of my searching for balanced, mirrored forms (yin/yang)".</p> <p>In her analysis of Muller's domestic architecture, Urford situates the McGrath house in the early phase of Muller's career, spanning from 1952, when he returned to Sydney after studying in the United States of America, to 1957. The houses of this period are "important for their unique, flexible, and spacious planning - as distinct from the typical Anglo-Australian plan of this time with its compartmentalised and boxy interiors." (Urford, op. cit., p. 6) The design for the McGrath House was an evolution from an illustrated letter Muller received from Bert Read. The diamond shaped cross section of the roof framing was a concept Muller had previously employed in the Molinari House (Forestville, 1954), as well the Audette House (1952) and his own house at Palm Beach (1954). Urford concludes that "the McGrath House is noteworthy not only for its ability to organise a large brief for an extremely large family on a restricted block...but also for the use of cheap, discarded, unconventional building materials. Muller here discovered and used for the first time the free off-cuts from 'Tilux', a compressed asbestos cement manufactured by Hardies." (Urford, op.cit., p. 18) The house is representative of Muller's characteristic "sense of geometry and axial composition, the repetition of simple geometrical elements impart[ing] a pervasive unity to the forms" evident from the early stage of his career. (Urford, op.cit., p. 20-1)</p>

HISTORY

Historical notes	<p>The subject house is located on land which was part of the Point Piper Estate and contained the tennis court associated with the c.1884 house Dunara, at 10 Dunara Gardens, long time home of the poet Dorothea MacKellar. In 1956, Edward Fortescue, a wholesale butcher from Rose Bay, acquired the property from the Young Men's and Women's Hebrew Association and subdivided it. Lot 4 was purchased in 1957 by Walter Patrick McGrath, company director. Plans for a new house designed by the architect Peter Muller were lodged with Woollahra Council early in the same year. In a 1984 interview, Muller stated that the McGraths were long-term friends for whom he had designed three houses.</p> <p>In 1962, Ernest and Magdalena Handler purchased the subject property, and a Development Application for a retaining wall along Wunulla Road was lodged. No other subsequent BAs or DAs have been recorded.</p>
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Woollahra 2004 heritage inventory

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

	<p>" Muller, Peter (Neil). (b. Adelaide, 3 July 1927). Australian architect. After training at the universities of Adelaide and Pennsylvania, he practised in Sydney, building houses sympathetically related to their sites and exhibiting his understanding of the spatial compositions of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Of these, Audette House (1952), Castlecrag, Sydney, the Richardson House (1956), Palm Beach, Sydney, and his own house at Whale Beach (1954), Sydney, were the most accomplished. In this, his most significant period, he helped lay the foundations for an organic approach to design sympathetic to the Australian environment. Although his buildings exhibit a love of natural materials, he was content to use less expensive substitutes to further sound design in low-cost dwellings. Muller visited Japan in 1961 and 1963, where he studied Buddhist philosophy. This reinforced his prior interest in Japanese culture and design. His own office (1961), Paddington, Sydney, most clearly testifies to this influence, which later led to projects in Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific. The Kayu Aya Hotel (1973), Bali, demonstrates his continuing love for fine craftsmanship and concern for the natural beauty of sites." (<i>The Grove Dictionary of Art</i>, Macmillan Publishers Limited.)</p> <p>Peter Muller is recognised as having introduced the Wrightian (Prairie School) approach to design in Australia, individualising it with strong personal and Asian influences. From the above it is reasonable to say Peter Muller is an important mid to late 20th century Australian architect of international note.</p>
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HISTORICAL THEMES	
State historical theme	Creative endeavour
Local historical theme	Contemporary housing
ASSESSMENT of HERITAGE CRITERIAj	
Historical significance SHR criterion (a)	<p>An item is important in the course, or pattern, of Woollahra's cultural or natural history</p> <p>The place reflects the continued popularity of the Point Piper area in the mid 20th century as a fashionable location for the residence of professional and business people. <i>This attribute by itself is of low significance at a local level.</i></p>
Historical association significance SHR criterion (b)	<p>An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Woollahra's cultural or natural history.</p> <p>The place is strongly associated with the architect Peter Muller, who is an important mid and late 20th century Australian architect of international note.</p> <p>The building is one of a group of works by Peter Muller, and forms part of the architect's body of work. <i>Each of the two attributes above, by themselves, is of some significance at a local level. When considered with other aspects of significance in this assessment, the place should be considered to be of moderate significance at a state level.</i></p> <p>The place is an individual work by an architect of outstanding significance to 20th century architecture in Australia. <i>This attribute by itself is of some significance at a state level.</i></p>
Aesthetic significance SHR criterion (c)	<p>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in Woollahra.</p> <p>Features typical of the Wrightian (Prairie School) approach such as exposed brickwork, overhanging timber awnings, repetitive use of a chevron motif, and a well-resolved integration of indoor and outdoor spaces are combined in the subject house with the architect's own individual organic-inspired elements, such as the diamond-section roof framing system (used, with variations, previously in at least three other Muller buildings) and Tilux off-cut roof material (used here for the first time in Muller's practice), to create an modern expressionist building of great interest, with Structuralist style influences evident in the exposed frame form. The powerful geometrical themes found in the roof line, roofing materials, chevron-shaped window openings and planter boxes, ramp to the entrance, and massing of the living wings of the house make the</p>

Woollahra 2004 heritage inventory

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

	<p>building a very good example of the early part of Muller's career and reflect his primary role in introducing the Prairie School approach to design to Australia in the 1950s. <i>This attribute by itself is of moderate significance at a state level.</i></p>
<p>Social significance SHR criterion (d)</p>	<p>An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in Woollahra for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p> <p>As evidenced by its inclusion on the RAIA (NSW Chapter) <i>Register of 20th Century Buildings of Significance</i>, the place is held in high regard by NSW architects and others interested in Australian architecture. <i>This attribute by itself is of some significance at a local level. When considered with other aspects of significance in this assessment, the place should be considered to be of moderate significance at a state level.</i></p>
<p>Technical/research significance SHR criterion (e)</p>	<p>An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding Woollahra's cultural or natural history.</p> <p>The archaeological potential of the place is low (see above). <i>This attribute by itself is of low significance at a local level.</i></p> <p>The building is a resource for the understanding of the architectural detailing of the architect, Peter Muller, particularly the use of off-cut Tilux roofing tiles (used at this house for the first time in his practice) and the diamond-shaped cross-section of the wall/roof framing. <i>This attribute by itself is of low significance at a local level.</i></p>
<p>Rarity SHR criterion (f)</p>	<p>An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Woollahra's cultural or natural history.</p> <p>With its strong exposed framed form, the building is a rare example in Sydney of a Structuralist style inspired building of the 1950s. Additionally, the use of Tilux roofing material is rare, both within Muller's architectural practice and within the Woollahra local government area. <i>This attribute by itself is of some significance at a local level. When considered with other aspects of significance in this assessment, the place should be considered to be of moderate significance at a state level.</i></p>
<p>Representativeness SHR criterion (g)</p>	<p>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of Woollahra's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments.</p> <p>The building is a very good example of the domestic architecture of Peter Muller. <i>This attribute by itself is of high significance at a local level.</i></p>
<p>Integrity</p>	<p>The degree to which the item retains the aspects which make it significant under the criteria above.</p> <p>The place appears to retain all of the aspects which made and make it significant.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>Recommendations</p>	<p>List as heritage item on Woollahra LEP. The boundary of the listing should be Lot 4 DP27451. Arrange internal inspection and, based upon intactness of interiors, consider for nomination for State Heritage Register.</p>
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INFORMATION SOURCES

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Site Inspection	Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners Pty Ltd	External site inspection	2004	Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd
Architectural Plans	Peter Muller	Point Piper Residence for Mr & Mrs Walter McGrath Jnr. (BA 39/57)	1957	Woollahra Council
Perspective Drawing	Peter Muller	McGrath House, Point Piper	957	www.petermuller.org/1957.html

Woollahra 2004 *heritage inventory*

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

Written	Jacqueline Urford	<i>Peter Muller: Domestic Architecture to 1964</i> (Advanced Study Report)	1984	University of Sydney
Correspondence	Peter Muller	Response to Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd list of questions	2004	Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd
Certificates of Title		Certificates of Title Vol 7504 No 227, Vol 6160 Fol 171, Vol 4566 Fols 47, 48, 49, Vol 3754 Fol 127		Department of Lands
AUTHOR OF THIS REPORT				
Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd (Ian Stapleton & Meg Quinlisk)			2005	

Woollahra 2004 *heritage inventory*

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

IMAGES

Image caption	Street elevation (south) of McGrath House
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Image year	2004	Image author and copyright holder	Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd
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Image caption	Two-storey pavilion of McGrath House
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Image year	2004	Image author and copyright holder	Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd
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