

# Lambert Park and Skyline Reserve

**Peter MacFie**

## Introduction

Lambert Park history was initially undertaken for the Hobart City Council as part of a study into the Skyline-Mt Nelson land management and planning proposal.

This publication features additional research and a re-writing of the original text.

Lambert Park is a rare example of private benevolence in Hobart, when land was bequeathed to the community as open space. The Park's uneasy history is an indicator of its unusual status. Its status and management was compounded by the premature death of Lambert Dobson, its original owner, in 1898.

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## Lambert Park - A History

The original 10 acres of Lambert Park were made over by Sir Lambert Dobson on 7th December 1896 to the old Queenborough Town Board. These were accepted on behalf of the inhabitants of the town for this 'valuable gift.' The reserve was to be named 'Lambert Park.'<sup>1</sup>

The chairman of the Queenborough Town Board also received a plan of the area reserved from Sir Lambert Dobson, which showed the land given, and also 'the improvement to be made.' The Chairman thought it a most generous gift, and it would be a greatest boon for the town as well as the inhabitants of Hobart, as it would be a retreat, and when they could lay it out with seats, etc. he thought it would be thoroughly appreciated by the inhabitants.'<sup>2</sup>

### **Sir W. Lambert Dobson (1833- 1898)**

Born at Gateshead in County Durham, England in 1833, Lambert Dobson emigrated as an infant with his parents, John, a lawyer, and Mary Ann Dobson. He was educated in Hobart at Hutchins School and Christ College, but was sent to England for his law degree. He returned to Hobart as a barrister in 1857. Dobson represented Hobart (1861-2) and Campbell Town (1864-70) in the House of Assembly, becoming attorney general in the Weston and Chapman Governments. He was responsible for abolishing

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<sup>1</sup>MCC 16/2/250, Queenborough Town Board 7/12/1896, p 118. AOT

<sup>2</sup>Tasmanian Mail, 12/12/1896, p.30 c1, AOT.

imprisonment for debt (1867) and the Public School Act (1868), Tasmania's first public school act. Appointed Chief Justice 1886, Dobson was public spirited, accepting a number of senior positions. These included as the first chancellor of the University of Tasmania, president of the Tasmanian Council on Education, vice president of the Royal Society, trustee of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and president of football and cricket clubs of southern Tasmania. A keen botanist, Lambert Dobson was a member of the Linnean Society and was trustee of the Botanical Gardens and vice-president of the Royal Society.<sup>3</sup> He was knighted in 1886.<sup>4</sup>

Lambert Dobson was active in the Anglican Church and Chairman of the Bushfire Relief Fund. He died of typhoid fever after visiting bushfire victims in 18th March, 1898<sup>5</sup> And his premature death was to have long term ramifications for the Park he had bequeathed to the community.

## Legal Status of Lambert Park

Donated to the public in 1896, the unexpected death of Dobson in December 1898 left the legal status of the land incomplete and a Management Committee was appointed from members of the Queenborough Board. In March 1900 the Certificate of Title was to be transferred, and it was agreed that 'a declaration of Trust be drawn - signed by the Board of Trustees of Sir Lambert Dobson's estate vesting the land in the Town Board.' In April 1909, the unresolved nature of the Park's status was again raised.

E. H. Webster wished to resign from Lambert Park Committee. Warden explains unresolved nature of Lambert Park legality, the transfer of the property not having been quite completed at the time of the donor's death. Since then the Trustee of the will, Hon Alfred Dobson had gone to England as Agent General and had subsequently died, leaving the matter uncompleted. The Council now held the Park without any Trust deeds. It would therefore be necessity for several members of the late Town Board who knew the particulars under which the Park was donated to make statutory declarations as to the gift, and the Trust could be then set forth.

Councillor Lucas advised the Council to keep clear of the Trust under the will. Lady Dobson was not one of the Trustees, and he thought it would be very difficult matter through the Trust. He judged the best plan would be for the Council to go to the Supreme Court explain what Sir L. Dobson had intended, and get the grant direct from the Court.'<sup>6</sup>

In 1910, a letter from the Land Titles Office concerning the incorrect boundaries was read but not detailed.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography, VOL. 4 P 78-9.

<sup>4</sup> Bennett, S and Bennett, B, Biographical Register of the Tasmanian Parliament 1851-1960, p 47.

<sup>5</sup> Robson, L. A History of Tasmania, vol2, p 243.

<sup>6</sup> MCC 16/2/50, 20/4/1909 p252.

<sup>7</sup> AB311/1, 18/1/1910, p360.

Over the next 20 years, additional land was added to the Lambert Park Reserve. In 1916, the Town Board purchased land adjoining the Queenborough Cemetery for £1500 from Henry Dobson.<sup>8</sup>

In 1943, Lambert Creek had still not been gazetted, and was finally approved in 1944.<sup>9</sup> The creek officially extends to '50 chains above the southern boundary of the Park.'<sup>10</sup>

According to Hobart City Council correspondence, the declaration of Trust had not been found in 1967. However, under Section 183 (8) of the 1963 Hobart Corporation Act, the Corporation may dispose of any recreation land with the approval of a resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

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## **Park Management.**

Over the years, small parcels of land were added to Lambert Dobson's original 10 acres. Later, the Hobart City Council also acquired land on the face of Mt Nelson, making a reservation which ran down the slope of Mt Nelson along the watercourse of Lambert Creek and linking to Lambert Park. This study deals only with Lambert Park.

### **The Queenborough Town Board Era.**

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Board give little information on the use and management of Lambert Park. In 1903, D.G. Salier was appointed caretaker. The Town Board established the Lambert Park Advisory Committee in 1904 to oversee the Park's management. Its initial members were; Messrs J. W. Tarleton, E. J. Whitesides, E. H. Webster, H. W. Knight, L. F. Stone, who were to 'take charge and look after Lambert Park.'<sup>11</sup> This committee reported to the Council. However, apart from a few references, the committee's reports were not documented- and have not survived.

In 1913, another committee to 'control Lambert Park' was appointed by the Queenborough Town Board. Its members were Councillors Giblin, Deple, A.V. Giblin, Warden L. J. Lipscombe, plus Messrs Tarleton, E. J. C. Whitehouse and H. W. Knight.<sup>12</sup>

### **Function and Appearance.**

In 1905, a notice board was erected cautioning people against the removal of soil, and tenders were called for a 3 rail 'post and rail fence' on the north side of Lambert Park. Roberts' tender was accepted at 5 shillings per rod. In October the same year, the

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> MCC 16/1/233, 24/11/1943.

<sup>10</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 22/2/1944.

<sup>11</sup> AB 311/1 6/9/1904.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

fencing was completed with No 8 galvanised wire with droppers, the posts to be not more than eleven feet apart. In December, iron entrance gates were purchased.<sup>13</sup>

In June 1908 the Council agreed to allow the a request of Mr Hornsby, for the Queenborough Brass Band – also known as No 1 Battalion Band - lease of the Park, in return for certain (unspecified) 'improvements.'<sup>14</sup> Approval was given for the Band to erect a rotunda, with a fee collection boxes in the Park.

Without specific guidelines or rules for its operation, the Park suffered from a range of intrusions. In 1908, H.W. Knight drew attention to cows grazing in the Park, the gate was in disrepair, and steps to remedy the situation were ordered.

In November 1910, Councillors Lipscombe and Deble instigated the construction of seven seats for the Park, to be made by P. Taylor. In 1911, Councillor Nettlefold suggested that some money be expended to employ a couple of the Council's men for a few days to clear out Lambert Avenue.

### **Lambert Park's Curtilage.**

The formal approach to the Park through Lambert Avenue contrasts with the bush setting on the Park's northern boundary, and the former Queenborough Cemetery on the north western boundary. By 1910, trees planted in Lambert Avenue had matured enough to have the tree guards removed. 80 young trees, supplied by the Department of Agriculture, were planted along Mt Nelson Road in 1911, and resident Lord agreed to supply tree guards. In October 1913, the formal entrance to the Park from Lambert Avenue was emphasised with the erection of a gas lamp.<sup>15</sup>

### **End of the Queensborough Town Board**

The former Queenborough Town Board was amalgamated with Hobart City on 24th December 1913. With the amalgamation, the Hobart Reserves Committee assumed responsibility for Lambert Park.

## **Hobart Council Era.**

### **Park Extensions.**

Over the years, various extensions have been made to the Park. Purchase of additional properties gradually extended the area of the Park. A section belonging to Baden O'Brien separated the Queenborough Cemetery from the Park, and eventually became the Caravan Park.

### **Lambert Avenue Homes.**

A number of other properties were located in Lambert Avenue. Most of these weatherboard homes acquired appeared to belong to widows. In 1925, one home was known as 'Corporation Cottage', then occupied by Mr & Mrs. McGinnis, which was

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<sup>13</sup> AB 310/2, 1901-08.

<sup>14</sup> AB 312/1 p. 131, 12/6/08. AOT.

<sup>15</sup> AB 311/2.

sewered and had its verandah modified the following year. These alterations were 'not to interfere with the recreation ground when constructed.' A month later, another cottage was also sewered as was its stable and cowshed, and in August 1926, the electric light was connected.

In 1949 the State government gave £1,000 for the purpose of demolition of some of these properties. The aim was in part to prevent private purchase between the Park and the former Queenborough Cemetery. The land acquired became the caravan park. However, by 1956 there was no record of the money having been received.

### **Creek Erosion.**

In the 1940's and 50's, adjacent owners complained of erosion cutting the creek bed to a depth of 6 feet in places. The option of piping the creek was rejected on grounds of cost.<sup>16</sup>

### **Public Pound.**

Until at least the 1960s, a Public Pound was located next to Lambert Park with access from Lambert Avenue.<sup>17</sup>

### **Connection from Lambert Avenue to Peel Street.**

In 1958 the Tasmanian Football League sought the extension of these roads to allow quicker access/exit from Queenborough Oval. This was refused owing to the pending extension of Churchill Avenue.

### **Purchased Properties.**

The Hobart Council's Parks and Reserves Committee resolved on 16/10/1975 to purchase Numbers 13, 14, and 17 Lambert Avenue. These were three of five intended purchases in 1965. Owners of intended properties complained of the felling of certain 'glorious trees' near the hockey and cricket grounds. Mrs Williamson of No. 11 complained of the danger of cricket balls, and all wanted a high fence for safety.

Other properties were purchased at a later date.

### **No 5 Lambert Ave.**

Mrs E M Maloney. Purchased 1973. Demolished.

A weatherboard building on brick foundation, approx. 60 years old, in fair condition, with iron roof. Internal walls of lathe and plaster. Two stories; on the first floor there is a lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, sun porch; downstairs, toilet, laundry and large bedroom. Covered in patio and garage. Occupied by Asian students. As area zoned green belt, purchased by Hobart City Council.

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<sup>16</sup>MCC 16/2/233, Lambert Creek.

<sup>17</sup>MCC 16/2/233, Lambert Creek, 10/11/1961.

**No 9 Lambert Avenue.**

Mrs MA Reid. Aged weatherboard home and flat, 17.7 squares, in 'good condition. Purchased for \$28,000' - possibly demolished?

**No 11 Lambert Avenue.**

Mrs M Williamson. Fate unknown.

### **Lambert Park - Post World War II History**

The Hobart City Council's file indicates a continued interest and concern for the Park's welfare by local residents who were also its regular users. This use put added pressure on the Park's natural state.

The Boy Scouts Association in 1949 proposed their own development of Lambert Park, with a 'Scouter' to act as 'Lambert Park Warden', and the Hobart Scouter's Council to provide a 'roster of Troops prepared to take part in the development plan.'. The association appeared to want a defacto Scout Camp, allowing regular camping in the reserve.

F. W. Chilvers, Superintendent of Reserves, was unwilling to give so much control to an outside body. Instead he offered a range of lesser options.

1. General cleaning up of dead trees and debris, and that tracks be more defined.
2. That a programme of tree planting be carried out each year, also shrubs and bulbs.
3. Fireplaces, seats and tables be erected in selected spots for picnic visitors.
4. That additional bridges be constructed on 'Scout's Principles' in 3 select spots.
5. That the creek be cleared and consideration be given for a pool if considered practical by the City Engineer.
6. That the above be undertaken during Scout training operations and be under guidance of the Reserve Department.

Chilvers opposed a 'development committee' for the Park. He viewed the Scouts approach warily, arguing that Lambert Park should be retained as a 'Woodland Park' with 'artificial adornments kept at a minimum.'

Some of these ideas were implemented. Chilvers was not opposed to camping in the back section of the Park. Working bees in 1949 resulted in trees being planted on several days- on August 6th and 20th, 40 trees and shrubs were planted, and 30 native trees and shrubs planted and portion of the debris cleared from the creek. On September 24th, 1949, one concrete and one stone pillar was completed and a site prepared for a pillar on the opposite bank for completion on the 1st of October. Poles

for a bridge were made available for the Scouts to erect. The bridge's timber decking was to begin on October 8th.<sup>18</sup>

In 1963 the Superintendent of Reserves reported local children were regular users as were Scouts and Guides. A section between the Creek and Caravan Park was used by campers, and play equipment – swings - on the northern corner were 'very popular.' The park was the 'only area of reserved natural bush land in this vicinity' and is a great asset to the district. It should be preserved and retained for the future of the city.'

During April - May 1966, the University Apex Club helped renew the bridge erected over the creek at Lambert Park, using timber supplied by Council.

In May 1966, Kelcey Aves, secretary of the Tasmanian Field Naturalist's Club, expressed concern at the destruction of the natural state of the reserve. Thinning put and burning had resulted in blackberries overtaking, and the 'whole character of the area is changing. Uncommon birds which bred in the denser thickets have departed and native orchids and natural grasses have given way to introduced weeds'<sup>19</sup> Part of the clearing was blamed on children who had cut down saplings to build 'mia mia's.; The dried scrub had then been burnt off by council. 'Unfortunately some saplings were scorched.'<sup>20</sup>

Aves commented on the disappearance of the notice at the gate which read, 'This Park was donated to the citizen's of Hobart by Lambert Dobson to be kept as a natural reserve.'

### The 1970s

In 1972, development of facilities in Lambert Park were proposed by the Sandy Bay Rotary Club. These ideas were 'gratefully accepted' by Council, according to Town Clerk Hurlle. As this was a voluntary project, a plan was not felt justified. These ideas included levelling areas of the Park, erection of barbecues, provision of tap water, and an adventure playground for children, and the provision of steps in steep section of the gully to allow access. The proposal was to start at the Lambert Avenue and work through to Churchill Avenue.

Not all local residents were in support. J. M. Hunter of 20 Lambert Avenue felt the proposals would defeat the overall objective of preserving the 'characteristic of the Park as an area of natural bushland.' These would also 'spoil the park as a natural habitat for the many species of birds which are still found to be there.' Hunter concluded, 'I will be grateful if the Council will prevent the implementation of the Rotary Club's 'development' proposals.'

These thoughts were echoed by J. B. Piggott of 53 Derwentwater Avenue;

...this Park had never been a picnic or recreation area. It has, and is, being used a by people of all ages, the elderly as well as the very young as s natural piece of

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<sup>18</sup> 29/9/1949

<sup>19</sup> 4 May 1966

<sup>20</sup> 3 May 1966

bushland.....once an inroads made into the Park's present use other additions...will have to be made, e.g. toilet facilities, picnic and playground structures.

Similarly Emeritus Professor Alan Strout felt the Club's plan would 'destroy its natural character.' He did agree on the need to tidy up rubbish.

In September 1972 Dr Jennifer Bond of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust wrote a two page report for the Rotary Club and HCC on the Club's proposed development of the Park. Concerns expressed by the Trust and the Club were litter, overgrowth and erosion of the banks of the creek, fire hazard from barbecues, the value of the Park as a natural 'adventure playground' for children and a desire to increase utilisation of the Park. Bond continued;

This reserve is unique in being an area of natural bush amidst suburban Hobart, It has an abundance of native trees, wildflowers and fauna which we feel must be preserved. .... The Park is an adventure playground in itself with banks to slide down, trees to climb, shrubs in which to hide. A visit to the Park will reveal many children happily employed without any addition to natural resources.

Bond was concerned the 'development' of the Park would detract from its natural assets;

Lambert Park is a small, quiet place where those who wish for seclusion, quiet, or exercise among natural surroundings away from busy streets can do so. With further extension of housing in Sandy Bay there (will) be an increasing need for such a facility. Artificial increase of utilisation by barbecues, adventure playgrounds and clearing will result in increased hazards to flora and fauna and the loss of this area will be a loss to all the citizens of Hobart.

In May 1973, she expressed concern at the use of firewood by visitors on the on-site barbecues. These had been installed by the Sandy Bay Rotary Club, instead of the intended gas barbecues. Council intended to build a 'low mesh fence' between the boundary of the Park and the Peel Street Caravan Park.

Council staff endorsed the concern for over-development of the Park, and small scale clearing of some stumps and trees, and the inclusion of barbecues was permitted.

The Rotary Club held a plaque-laying ceremony at the Lambert Park entrance in May 1973. Invited guests included the Mayor, Mr Plaister, Superintendent of reserves, Mr Henry Dobson and others involved with the Project. The plaque was to be unveiled by visiting World President of Rotary, Roy. D. Hickman.

These concerns resulted in response by Council to numerous letters of concern

### **Lambert Creek Quarry.**

A report from 1969 refers to this quarry which 'lies in the Lambert Creek Gully opposite Bend 2 Nelson Road.

It had an access track (overgrown) on the south side of the creek off Beddome Street and at the head of the gully there is a small exploratory excavation in bluestone. The area generally is a quarry in name only, the purpose for which the area was purchased



being the establishing of a quarry at the time (1951). At the time the council was quarrying its own material. It is not a hazard....<sup>21</sup>

However, lobbying from the Hobart Walking Club, plus a petition from several hundred residents of Churchill Avenue and the Mt Nelson Progress Association, in October 1954 led to the quarry's use being stopped in favour of the Domain Quarry.<sup>22</sup> The quarry was ceded to the Council in 1970.

## Lambert Park - Structures & Wildlife

### Lambert Park Cottage.

A weatherboard cottage stood at the entrance to the Pound. In April 1957 the occupant, H. M. Brett, asked for renewal of the bridge to the property which was 'dangerous to even walk on.'<sup>23</sup>

### Footbridge.

In 1962 a bridge was proposed to cross the Rivulet, and link Peel Street, the caravan Park to Lambert Avenue and the Park. The access would also allow a short cut for boys from Hutchins School. A gravel footpath was approved.<sup>24</sup>

### Shelter Shed.

Moves in 1961 to demolish a shelter shed were defeated within the Parks and Reserves Committee. The Superintendent argued

It was evident recently that the shelter had been used by wine drinkers and a fire had been lit in it..... a man has been arrested in connection with the offence....

I do not recommend that the building be demolished. It is still useful for picnic parties, girl guides and scouts and had a life of 10 years or more. Skirting boards and the malthoid roof will need occasional repair. The building needs painting and a square yard of asphalt on the floor. If wattle trees were planted at the rear it could not be offensive to any property owner .....<sup>25</sup>

### Flora and Fauna

In April 1957, Alderman Gray from the Council Reserves committee issued a public warning against damage to trees for which there was a 50 pound fine;

In Lambert Park and Pine St, West Hobart, older trees had been poisoned and subsequently removed, leaving untidy gaps.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>MCC 16/2/233 'Quarries Generally.'

<sup>22</sup>MCC 16/2/233, Mt Nelson Quarry

<sup>23</sup>MCC 16/2/233, Lambert Creek.

<sup>24</sup>MCC 16/2/233, Lambert Creek.

<sup>25</sup> 06 September, 1961

<sup>26</sup>Mercury 2/4/1957.

Trees poisoned included some on private property on the Park boundary.

Alderman Gray's press release to ABC radio added more detail.

The growing of trees from seedlings, their subsequent planting and care ..... and the care and preservation of trees that were growing even before Hobart became a settlement costs the taxpayers of Hobart...

**Queenborough Caravan Park, Peele Street.**

On 8th June 1949, an area acquired from B. O'Brien was gazetted. This adjoined the Cemetery and the Park. Near the Peel Street end a 5 roomed weatherboard house stood.<sup>27</sup> In May 1950, the Council were asked to have fences adjoining the Cemetery 'put in order' to allow for Mr Leary to graze stock there.'

Conflict over use by campers of the Lambert Park continued, including issues such as erecting tents and lighting camp fires. These included complaints by adjacent residence. J. G. L. Morris, Jan 1978. 'No camping' signs were erected on 'appropriate tracks.'

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<sup>27</sup>HCC plan 2494, 12/5/1949.

## Illustrations

### Illustrations

1. "View of Sandy Bay, 1852." Sketch by W. Lambert Dobson. (TM 11/1/1896, P. 7)
2. Bench and Bar in Tasmania." Portraits including Sir W. Lambert Dobson. (TM 11/1 1896, P.18)

### Photographs

3. "View of Sandy Bay from Battery Point, c. 1880. (NS 526/24, TSA (Note Cemetery far right, Dunkley's Pt, centre left.)
4. "Aerial View of Dunkley's Point and Lambert Park, c. 1940 (NS 892/74, TSA) (Note Cemetery, Pound Keeper's House, now caravan park.)
5. "Sandy Bay from Battery Point" c1900, W.J. Little. (Note i) Cemetery; ii) track from vicinity of Derwentwater Avenue up to Mt Nelson; iii zig zag up Mt Nelson - bridle trail which became Mt Nelson Rd.) (7/31, TSA)
6. "View of Hobart and Sandy Bay from the Mt Nelson Signal Station". C1880. (NS 485/169, TSA)
7. "Detail of View of Hobart and Sandy Bay from the Mt Nelson Signal Station". C 1880.

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## Maps & Plans

1. Grants of Thomas Chaffey and Sons, 1814, (Bucknham 4A. DEP)
2. Section of Buckingham County Chart. C1900
3. Lambert Park Title, Vol 2792 Fol 80, Titles Office, 11 Sep 1970
4. Map no. 5 Public Recreation, from City of Hobart Town Planning Scheme, F.C. Cook, 1945. (Note Lambert Creek – Skyline Reserve Proposal)

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## Appendices

The following appendices feature excerpts from relevant Queenborough and Hobart Council minutes, plus the post WWII Skyline Reserve proposal, relating to Lambert Park. These are meant as indicators only of material available in State Archives and Hobart Council records.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE QUEENBOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS, 1896- 1913

#### Appendix 1.

##### QUEENBOROUGH TOWN BOARD MINUTES 1901-08<sup>28</sup>

###### **1903**

P39 re removal of soil by Mr Robertson

###### **5/1/1903**

D. G. Salier appointed caretaker of Lambert Park, he contributed £2 towards fencing.

###### **6/9/1904.**

Lambert Park Advisory Committee established, of Messrs J. W. Tarleton, E. J. Whitesides, E. H. Webster, H. W. Knight, L. F. Stone, to' take charge and look after Lambert Park.'

###### **14/2/1905.**

Notice Board to be erected, cautioning people against removal of soil etc.

###### **4/7/1905**

Tenders called for a three -rail post and rail fence to be erected on the north side of Lambert Park. (Roberts tender of 5 shillings per rod accepted)

###### **10/10/1905.**

Agreed to finish fencing in No. 8 galvanised wire with droppers the posts to be no more than 11 feet apart.

###### **5/12/1905**

Iron gates purchased for Lambert Park.

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<sup>28</sup> Queenborough Board Minutes (AB 310/2) 1901-08. (AOT)

## Appendix 2.

Queenborough Board Minutes. 1908-11<sup>29</sup>

### Undated

Lambert Park Advisory Committee reports read and received, but not detailed.

### 6/4/1908 p 58-9

Management Committee for Park suggested; members L. Rodway, L. J. Lipscombe, E. H. Webster, E. L. Whitesides, J. W. Tarleton, H. Watson.

Councillor James objects to involvement of outside body; the Queenborough Band willing to help to make the Park attractive to the general public.

Matter unresolved; warden to 'look up deed of gift, and report to the Council...'  
(According to later minutes, this did not occur.)

### 24/8/1908.

Approval given to Queenborough Brass Band- No.1 Battalion Band- for the erection of a rotunda at Lambert Park. The Band allowed to place fee collection boxes in the Park.

### 17/11/1908

Concern over purchase of Mt Nelson by Marine Board and possible restrictions on access. The new road of £4,000 a waste of money; access available since 1811.

### 20/4/1909, p 252.

E. H. Webster wished to resign from Lambert Park Committee. Warden explains unresolved nature of Lambert Park legality.' .the transfer of the property not having been quite completed at the time of the donor's death. Since then the Trustee of the will, Hon Alfred Dobson had gone to England as Agent General and had subsequently died, leaving the matter uncompleted. There Council now held the Park without any Trust deeds. It would therefore be necessity for several members of the late Town Board who knew the particulars under which the Park was donated to make statutory declarations as to the gift, and the Trust could be then set forth.

Councillor Lucas advised the Council to keep clear of the Trust under the will. Lady Dobson was not one of the Trustees, and he thought it would be very difficult matter through the Trust. He judged the best plan would be for the Council to go to the Supreme Court explain what Sir L. Dobson had intended, and get the grant direct from the Court.'

### 15/6/1909

H. W. Knight draws attention to cows grazing in the Park; gate in disrepair, and steps to remedy the situation ordered.

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<sup>29</sup> Queenborough Board Minutes. (AB 311/1) 1908-11, (AOT)

**13/7/1909, p285**

Mt Nelson Track. Letter read from Marine Board and EH Webster re track to Mt Nelson. The Warden said the track had been used by the public for very many years past, as had been the Mt Nelson Track. A new track was proposed, supported by Tasmanian Tourist Association.

**10/8/1909**

Supplementary report, advises new track better grades and shorter than old track.)

**21/12/1909, p 252**

Secretary of Tourist Assoc. promises to send finger-post sign for Lambert Park when ready.

**18/1/1910, p360.**

Letter re incorrect boundaries from Land Titles Office read-but not detailed.

**10/9/1910, p493**

Old Mt Nelson Rd. That passing through E. H. Webster's property would be declared a 'public one.' Its continuation through the property of C. H. C. Livingstone and the Trustee of the late W. W. Perkins has been proclaimed but the owner refuses to produce this deed without payment. (This reluctance due to the lack of recognition given to Livingstone and Perkins who'd donated £160 to the track, but Webster had all the recognition. 4/10/10 p 497)

**29/11/1910 p 532**

Seats for Lambert Park. Seven seats to be made for the Park on the motion of Councillors Lipscombe and Deble. Seats to be made by P. Taylor.

Trees in Lambert Ave. Guards around trees in Lambert Avenue to be removed.

**Queenborough Board Minutes AB 311/2<sup>30</sup>****6/11/1911 p49.**

Coronation Day celebrated by 12 trees to be planted by the wife or daughters of the Councillors in Greenland Avenue. Trees suggested were sycamore, cork, elm, or horse chestnut.

**6/11/1911 p57.**

list of planters spouses/daughters of councillors, 12 trees supplied by Dir of Agric.

**27/7/1911, p72. Oct.**

Lord agreed to supply tree guards for 80 trees to be planted on Mt Nelson Rd, to be supplied by Dir of Agric., commencing at High Street.

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<sup>30</sup> Queenborough Board Minutes. (AB 311/2) 1908-11, (AOT)

**17/12/1912, p246.**

Councillor Nettlefold suggests few pounds be expended on clearing out Lambert Ave and that a couple of Council's men be employed there for a few days.

**7/10/1913, p316.**

Committee appointed to 'control Lambert Park.' Members Councillors Giblin, Deple, AV Giblin, warden L. J. Lipscombe, plus Messrs. Tarleton, E. J. C. Whitehouse, H. W. Knight.

**7/10/1913, p 321**

Gas lamp at entrance to Lambert Park.

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### Appendix 3

#### MINUTES OF MOUNTAIN PARK AND OTHER RESERVES<sup>31</sup>

(With the amalgamation of Queenborough with Hobart, the Hobart Reserves Committee assumed responsibility for Lambert Park.)

#### 1915- 1936

**2/3/1915.**

Committee approves lease of land encroached by Mr Burnet, £1 per annum.

**16/3 15**

Supt authorised to expend £5 -later 10- on cutting down briars and to generally 'put place in order.'

**1/7/1915**

Mrs Bidencope agrees to supply cuttings for use in Reserves (10 shillings and 8pence a cart load of cuttings got from Mrs Bird)

Trees purchased from Mr Walker, Launceston, as 1/3 less than local prices.

**27/7/1915**

Offer of requisitions for nursery from Mr Lipscombe accepted.

**21/9/1915**

Query why T. Lipscombe received 9 shillings per week, vs 7/6 for other men; Supt says TL was a tradesman propagating plants, the others were only labourers.

**5/9/1916.**

Meeting accepts offer of Henry Dobson of £1500 for land adjoining cemetery, plus land of Clark and Co, for £250.

**27/1/1917**

Queenborough Progress Assoc. draws attention to spread of noxious weeds (fennel).

**5/2/1917**

Cemetery gates to be reopened 'once avenue was cleaned up.'

**9/4/1918**

Queenborough Cemetery, re steepness of avenue, complaint by undertaker, suggestion of entrance by gate off Mt Nelson Road. £5 allocated for bridge over gutter there.

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<sup>31</sup> MCC 16/72/1 (AOT)

**6/6/1918**

Mrs Harcourt of Queenborough Croquet Club offers £20 per annum for rent and upkeep of lawn.

**3/9/1918**

Superintendent of Reserves reports no evidence of Lambert Park being 'knocked about.' Notice boards to be erected.

**26/11/1918**

Committee agrees to sell to Mr Burnett a piece of land, Lambert Ave, and of no detriment to the Park. Subject to governor in Council.

**28/2/1921**

Claim of damages to trees, Lambert Park, from Hobart City Council against Secretary of Public Works.

**4/4/1921**

Caretaker Rowe in charge of Queenborough Cemetery.

**18/4/1921, p24.**

Notice Board to be erected 'directing people to the Lambert Park Recreation Ground.'

**30/6/1921.**

£25 budgeted for expenditure on Lambert Park.

**21/7/1925.**

£50 allocated for wages, Lambert Park.

**18/8/1925**

Queenborough Progress Association re permission to plant ornamental trees inside and outside the cemetery fence. Asked that trees further up road be cut. Permission granted for both.

Queenborough Progress Association re covering of ground in front of Cemetery 'into a recreation ground.'

**20/2/1925**

re Corporation Cottage, Lambert Avenue, occupied by Mr and Mrs McGinnis.

**22/6/1926, p40.**

Corporation Cottage sewered and verandah modified; no alteration to interfere with the recreation ground when constructed.'

**6/7/1926.**

Sewering of house, cowshed and stable, Lambert Ave cottage. 14/9/26 electric light connected.

**21/5/1928, p. 80.**

Completion of Queenborough Hockey Ground.

**1929**

Lease of hockey ground and cricket and football ground.

**6/7/1931, p2.**

Complaints from local residents regarding removal of wood from Lambert Park for the unemployed. 'Residents perturbed at the wholesale destruction of trees which was taking place at Lambert Park.' Already some 7 or 8 big gum trees had been removed; the undergrowth had been smashed down and ... the whole place will, if steps are not taken,... be converted into a wilderness.'

The Superintendent of Reserves reported that 'the only trees cut down the Park were peppermints which were half dead and rotten in the centre. There is no need for alarm as he carefully superintendents this work and will see that no good trees are removed.'

**25/7/1934, p20**

Recommended planting of quick growing trees,' such as Lambertiana- for the purpose of forming a close hedge 7-8 feet high along Mt Nelson Rd, and the short street between the ground and the cemetery.'

**8/5/1935**

2 cinder basketball courts at Queenborough for lease to Tasmanian Women's Basketball Association. £6 per annum.

**3/11/1936, p39**

Vandalism at Lambert Park. A civic patrolman appointed to detect cutting down trees; unsuccessful, so police asked to help. Recommended that R. Broughton, leasee of Lambert Cottage, be asked to vacate, and a Ranger from Council Reserves Department be appointed as Ranger and occupy the premises.

**8/11/1936, p45.**

D. Sexton, to be Ranger at Long Beach and Lambert Park. V. J. Prero, Ranger at Queenborough Sports Ground. (Other rangers appointed for other reserves.)

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## Appendix 4

### SKYLINE RESERVE PLAN, 1945.

#### Implications for Lambert Park<sup>32</sup>

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The Skyline Reserve was part of a post-World War II plan by City architect FC Cook, who, in 1945, recommended the acquisition of reserves in the urban area.<sup>33</sup> Cook, whose ideas on inner urban Hobart development included the demolition of colonial buildings and the erection of high rise buildings on Battery Point for example, nevertheless had more sympathetic visions for the skylines of Hobart and the Derwent estuary.

The Skyline Reserve idea dated to 1942 when:

‘Council decided to purchase the whole of Knocklofty in order to preserve a wooded hill as a background to the city.’

The suggestion was then made that the Council should make an effort to preserve the face and skyline of Mt Nelson for a similar reason. Reference was made to the position of the Dandenong Ranges, north east of Melbourne, where much of the timber had been removed during the last 30 years....’

The City Engineer was asked to fix a ‘limit of vision’ along the top of Mt Nelson taken from a point where this range of hills first became visible to persons approaching the city from the airport, ( Bellerive ) (sic) The second sight was to be taken from the city itself.

The serious aspect of war and the scarcity of staff forced the postponement of the proposal.

In 1945 Mr F. C. Cook prepared a draft recommendation for a town plan of Hobart... and recommended that the valley below Mt Nelson and forming the headwaters of Lambert Rivulet should be a natural park reserve.<sup>34</sup>

The reserves Committee in December 1949 noted that the plan did not specifically ‘deal with the preservation of a ‘skyline’ of Mt Nelson itself..... the Committee considers this aspect of town planning should have attention, so that the city will be assured of an attractive background.’ The report continued:

A survey has been made, and from this it is ascertained that an area of comparatively low value land comprising about 150 acres in several parcels is necessary to retain a green skyline of Mt Nelson from

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<sup>32</sup> Hobart City Council Library

<sup>33</sup> MCC 16/2/365, Map 5 (Public Recreation) of Cook’s Plan, 10/10/1950.

<sup>34</sup> *ibid*, November 1959. See Cook Plan, p. 66. Tasmaniana Library.

a point opposite the Rifle Range (i.e. the current University) to the Signal Station.

An attached plan indicated the areas to be reserved.<sup>35</sup>

The Skyline Reserve was to be part of a continued expanse to 'join with Lambert Park.'<sup>36</sup>

Residents and landowners were informed of Council's intentions.

Proposals for the reserve resulted in a petition from over 30 residents who protested at the 'needless waste of public money.'<sup>37</sup>

Moves were made to extend the reserve. On 11 December 1950 the Council decided to incorporate in the one Planning Scheme the area between the Mt Nelson Skyline Reserve and Lambert Park and to advise the affected landowners.

In August 1952, Town Clerk Cole advised local landowners, like G. V. Chapman's Estate that, under the provision of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1944, the Council 'has reserved a further area on the timbered slopes of Mt Nelson as a scenic reserve.'

The area extends in a southerly and easterly direction from the present boundaries of Lambert Park to join the skyline (sic) reserve and includes the steep slopes near the source of Lambert Rivulet.

By 1957, the increasing impact of subdivisions on the Skyline Reserve concept was of concern to the Reserves Committee, which considered the 'overall review of the reserve should be made.' In January 1958 a review recommended the addition of five areas to the Reserve and the elimination of seven small areas and one large one, the latter on a proposed roadway. Additional sections were also added to the Reserve in 1959. A bylaw was passed on 16 Feb 1959 making the Reserve a 'tree preservation zone.'<sup>38</sup>

The Skyline Reserve was still undergoing debate and attempted modification in 1964, when City Engineer Parson insisted 'the initial series of skyline clumps of trees requires to be modified to one of integration of green areas with a master plan of the whole suburb.' He thought the suburban development among trees on the zig-zag road was acceptable. These and other suburban development was softened by the Lambert Creek/Skyline Reserve, and the Mt Nelson Reserve from the Signal Station linking to the Grange Reserve. He argued for a 'steeply sloping subdivision design.' He advocated departing from the skyline concept as 'restrictive and inappropriate to define the planning of public open space' on Mt Nelson. Instead he proposed '.... integration of natural beauty with subdivision development.'

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<sup>35</sup> op cit. 19/12/1949.

<sup>36</sup> ' op cit., 11/12/1950.

<sup>37</sup> ibid 16/10/1950.

<sup>38</sup> ibid, Report November 1959. The maps showing these and other plans were bound into the file and could not be examined.

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