

## St Leonards/ Gore Hill Oval

Gore Hill Oval: Crown reserve including land surrounding oval and within/ adjoining car parking areas - bounded by Pacific Highway, Gore Hill Cemetery, Royal North Shore Hospital and Reserve Road.

This area contains a series of fragmented components of the original Blue Gum High Forest community (BGHF), including some of the most significant examples of this endangered ecological community on the lower north shore [City of Willoughby LGA]. This ageing and highly vulnerable population is located within successive overlays of generic native and exotic planted species as well as common weed species. The site has been divided into four main groups with a further small area included (adjoining the lower portion of Reserve Road) as follows:

1. South-western boundary group (south-western corner of site near Pacific Highway - between boundary to Gore Hill Cemetery and Oval);
2. North-western boundary group (between the boundary to Gore Hill Cemetery and area immediately north of the clubhouse);
3. Upper north-western carparking area group (within and adjoining RNSH carparking area);
4. Upper north-eastern carparking area group (between northern embankment to oval and carparking area, including islands adjacent to Reserve Road);
5. Lower eastern portion of Reserve Road (including western gardens to 207 Pacific Highway and adjoining open space).

### KEY

COLUMN 1: LAND DESCRIPTION: Public reserve: area description

COLUMN 2: ITEM refers to a scheduled item (e.g. single tree, tree group, etc.) assessed as having natural heritage values or significance as defined in the *WCC Natural Heritage Register (2002)*.

COLUMN 3: ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY and map units are in accordance with Benson & Howell (1994) in Cunninghamia 3(4) pp. 677-711, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

COLUMN 4: SPECIES = listed tree species (NOTE: 6-letter epithet/ identity code GENUS-SPECIES); refer to **Key to Native Plant Species Schedule - Chatswood West & Lane Cove North**.

COLUMN 5: AGE = estimated age of listed heritage tree/ item. These estimates are generally very conservative (eg. long lived species may be several decades older than estimates).

COLUMN 6: HEIGHT = estimated height (in metres)

COLUMN 7: SPREAD = estimated canopy diameter (in metres)

COLUMN 8: CONDITION refers to overall health, vigour and structure of scheduled tree(s). Description as 'regrowth' is used as a general reference to mesic shift/ level of disturbance and modification (incl. common tree/ shrub species such as *Pittosporum undulatum*, *Glochidion ferdinandi*, *Homalanthus populifolius*, etc).

COLUMNS 9-11: For a detailed explanation of ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY, DURABILITY RANKING and CORRIDOR LINKAGES refer to *WCC Natural Heritage Register (2002)*.

COLUMN 12: EXISTING PROTECTION identifies legislative framework for protection as described in *WCC Natural Heritage Register (2002)*. Refer to current Willoughby LEP.

COLUMN 13: NOTES includes additional information describing listed items, context and description of remnant native components.

The data for this study was collected by Noel Ruting, LandArc Pty Limited in April 2006.

Schedules commence on following page

Land Description	Item	Ecological Community	Species	Age Structure	Height [metres]	Spread [metres]	Condition	Ecological Integrity	Durability Ranking	Corridor Linkages	Existing Protection	Notes
<b>Gore Hill Oval, Pacific Highway/ Reserve Road - Public Reserves:</b>												<b>Survey Date: 6 April 2006</b>
<b>1. South-western boundary group (south-western corner of site near Pacific Highway - between boundary to Gore Hill Cemetery and Oval)</b>												
Sub-group: lawn area on western side of carparking area near bdy. to Gore Hill Cemetery	tree group	6b	Ac [1] Epil [1] Epa [1] Ac [2] Pu	80-100+ 80-100+ 60-80+ 30-40+ <30-40+	16m 18m 15m 14-15m up to 7m	20m 16m 10m 5-6m varies	good fair good good good	5	low	isolated	TPO	regrowth of canopy species [BGHF] incl. Ac [1]/Epil [1] old growth specs. high level past disturbance/ modification; lawn/ gardens; native g/covers not evident; no current regeneration/ recruitment; generic native planting - <i>Corymbia</i> , <i>Lophostemon</i> , <i>Casuarina</i> <i>Ficus</i> spp.; <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> & weed spp. dom. along boundary; Ac [2]- immature; likely recruitment.
Sub-group: eastern side of carpark area incl. grassed embankment to oval and flat grassed area			Ac [1] Ac [1]	80-100+ 80-100+	14m 10m	16m 9m	fair fair/ regrowth					Ac [2]- old growth specimens within generic native plantation; damaged trunk/ regrowth on smaller specimen.
<b>2. North-western boundary group (between the boundary to Gore Hill Cemetery and area immediately north of the clubhouse)</b>												
Sub-group: lawn area between clubhouse and boundary to Gore Hill Cemetery	tree group	6b	Ere [1] Epil [1] Sg [1] Gf [1] Pu	80-100+ 80-100+ 60-80+ 40-50+ <30-40+	25m 16m 12m 7m up to 7m	18m 15m 10m 8m varies	good good good good good	4-5 varies	low	isolated	TPO	regrowth of canopy species [BGHF] incl. old growth specimens; lawn/ weeds along boundary; some native g/covers incl. <i>Dichondra/Oplismenus</i> spp.; <i>P. undulatum</i> dom. [as above] <i>Omalanthus</i> sp. present; Ere [1] - exceptionally large specimen [LGA] Epil [1] - damaged crown/ regrowth; herbicidal targeting of weed species Sg[1]/ Gf[1]- on bdy. to cemetery.
Sub-group: lawn area adjacent to northern side of clubhouse and boundary to Gore Hill Cemetery			Epil [2] Sg [1]	80-100+ 60-80+	18-20m 12m	15-20m 9m	good good					Epil [2] - some pruning evident; <i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> seedlings under Epil [1] near carpark.

Schedules continue on following page

Land Description	Item	Ecological Community	Species	Age Structure	Height [metres]	Spread [metres]	Condition	Ecological Integrity	Durability Ranking	Corridor Linkages	Existing Protection	Notes
<b>3. Upper north-western carparking area group (within and adjoining RNSH carparking area)</b>												small garden beds/ bitumen carpark;

Group within RNSH carparking area - verges/ garden beds adj. to bdy. to Gore Hill Cemetery	tree group	6b	Es [1] Es [1] Sg [3] Sg [1]	60-80+ unknown 60-80+ 80-100+	25m 15m 10-12m 10m	14m 6m 7-10m 12m	fair good/ regrowth fair/ poor fair	5	low	isolated	TPO	Es [1]- ext. dead wood in crown; Es [1]- epicormic growth <20 years off old stump; Sg group- dead wood in crowns/ loss of vigour - possibly due to recent herbicidal treatment to weeds & poor site conditions; need further investigation by arborist; mass planting of generic native & BGHF spp. <20 years+; <i>Ficus rubiginosa</i> [12m HT] believed to be cultivated.
<b>4. Upper north-eastern carparking area group (between northern embankment to oval and RNSH carparking area, including islands adjacent to Reserve Road)</b>												
Sub-group: top of northern embankment to oval and within adjoining RNSH bitumen carpark area	tree group	6b	Epil [2] Epil [1] Ac [1]	80-100+ 80-100+ 50-60+	12-14m 15m 12m	12-18m 12m 12m	good fair good	4-5 varies	low	isolated	TPO	regrowth of canopy species [BGHF] incl. stunted old growth specimens; Epil [2] - top of embankment; native g/covers incl. <i>Dianella longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i> ; Epil [1]- in carpark w. old insect damage/ basal cavity. Some dead wood present in all Epil [3]; Ac [1] - possibly remnant of BGHF. Epil [1] - multi-trunk/ past pruning; Ac [1] - growing at base w. g/covers incl. <i>Dianella caerulea</i> var. <i>producta</i>
north-eastern carpark area/ upper embankment			Epil [1] Ac [1]	80-100+ 40-50+	12m 6m	15m 4m	fair good					
Sub-group: elevated "island" garden bed adjacent to RNSH access road to carpark area	tree group	6b	Epil [1] Ac [1] Epil [1] Epil [1] Egl [1] Ac [2]	80-100+ 80-100+ unknown <10 unknown unknown	16m 14m 6m 5m 6m <1m	18m 15m 4m 1m 5m <1m	good good good/ regrowth good/ sapling fair/ regrowth good/ regrowth					rockery/ garden; exotic planting w. epicormic regrowth of BGHF spp. on old stumps; min. maintenance; Epil [1]/ Ac [1]- old growth specs; Epil [2] - regrowth/ sapling likely to be natural recruitment/ not cultivated; some native g/covers incl. <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> ; <i>Kennedia</i> sp. possibly cultivated.
upper north-eastern boundary to access road	single tree	6b	Sg [1]	60-80+	12m	12m	poor					
Sub-group: garden bed adj. to entry gates on Reserve Road & upper embankment to oval	tree group	6b	Epil X[1] Sg [1] Ac [1]	60-80+ 60-80+ 80-100+	14m 14m 14m	14m 9m 16m	good fair good	5	low	isolated	TPO	Epil X[1] - bed adj. to entry gates/ hybrid specimen; Ac[1]- old growth w. large basal cavity/insect damage; Mistletoe [ <i>Muellerina</i> sp.] on lower branch - 95% dead; Es [1] - likely to be cultivated/ basal cavity/ fungi & ext. dead wood.
upper eastern embankment adj. to Reserve Road	single tree		Es [1]	25-30+	18m	15m	poor					

Schedules continue on following page

Land Description	Item	Ecological Community	Species	Age Structure	Height [metres]	Spread [metres]	Condition	Ecological Integrity	Durability Ranking	Corridor Linkages	Existing Protection	Notes
<b>5. Lower eastern portion of Reserve Road (including western gardens to 207 Pacific Highway and adjoining open space)</b>												old growth specs. [BGHF] retained

adj. to rear of 207 Pacific Hwy. - northern side of entry/ driveway	tree group	6b	Sg [1]	80-100+	14m	10m	fair	5	low	isolated	TPO	in garden beds adj. to multi-storey buildings; multi-trunk regrowth on old bases; Sg [1] heavy pruning to individual specimen; Sg [6] may be only Sg [3] w. multi-trunk bases.
mulched garden bed adj. to 207 Pacific Hwy/ Reserve Road			Sg [6]	60-80+	9-12m	7m [combined]	good					