

OCT07

# LAND MARK



## In this issue

01 Climate of Design Conference notice

03 Canberra Central Parklands Competition 2007 Edwina Richardson

03 The importance of plants in landscape design Glen Wilson

05 Kanguroots in Ireland

06 New AILA Fellow for NSW: Adam Hunter

07 Notices

## Welcome to Adelaide

### Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, AILA, ASLA, IFLA

The School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, University of Adelaide, is pleased to welcome the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects to Adelaide. The School offers the only Landscape Architecture program in South Australia and we are particularly appreciative of the Institute's presence in our city for this national conference. It brings focus to our School and a profile to the profession within the State which is a wonderful contribution. Access to this gathering for our students, staff and local practitioners is also a great catalyst for discussion and debate about the future trends for the profession.

As new Head and Chair of the School, I have a short history with this place but fresh impressions that I can share with you. You're coming to a very livable city that sits in the embrace of a highly valued parkland greenbelt. It strikes one as a city that is supremely readable with its central King William Street, gridded street pattern, and a variety of distinct surrounding suburbs. Its premier recreational space is the Torrens River (running through the heart of the city) and the river-side linear park system with a trail that one can travel from the surrounding hills to the seaside – an unimpeded route of over 30 kilometers. It is a remarkable achievement that owes much to the forward thinking of its city planners and administrators of the 1970s. A mark of this city is that work continues on other urban river corridors to create similar continuous recreational spaces.

The 2007 AILA conference will be held in the award-winning National Wine Centre, a unique University facility located on the edge of the City's Botanic Gardens and nearby Zoo. The magnificent efforts of the School's Tanya Court are most particularly noted as one of the local organizers who we owe a great thanks.

Finally, the conference will be twinned with a gathering of educators in Landscape Architecture who will meet at the School on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> following the main conference on Friday. This is an important resurgence of this group of educators as the Australian Educators in Landscape Architecture. At this meeting ideas on pedagogy will be shared as will discussions on the common challenges in Landscape Architecture education.

In closing, we in Adelaide look forward to your arrival at the national conference. We anticipate thoughtful discussions, lively engagement, and new ideas.



## CLIMATE of DESIGN

Design Solutions for landscapes challenged by Climate and Water

[www.aila.org.au/conference](http://www.aila.org.au/conference)

AILA one day (plus more...) Conference – Adelaide

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>–Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007



### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Arrive and enjoy Adelaide

4.30pm AILA National AGM

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> National Wine Centre, Adelaide

Speakers include:

Professor Kongjian Yu – Turenscape and Peking University

Romilly Madew – Chief Executive of the Green Building Council

Dr Xuemei Bai – CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

Dr Tony Wong – Ecological Engineering

Professor Chris Daniels – Centre for Urban Habitats

James Hayter – oxigen (Adelaide)

**HASSELL** Conference evening cocktails

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Site tours (self guided) and

### Meeting of the Educators of Landscape Architecture

and then, Saturday Night, all delegates and others invited to be part of the celebration of the **AILA SA Awards**.  
Dance the night away!!!



## Abstracts

### Integrating climate concerns into urban management and design: challenges and opportunities

Dr Xuemei Bai  
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

The linkage between cities and climate change has been widely recognized. Due to the growing numbers of cities and urban residents, cities have increasingly contributed to global environmental issues, and adapting to climate change is a rising agenda for cities. Many studies have highlighted that the city administrative level is a crucial level at which to address global issues. Nevertheless, integrating global concerns into local management remains a difficult task for the majority of cities. This presentation explores the obstacles that impede cities from addressing global environmental concerns, the opportunities for removing the obstacles, and strategies for bringing global issues onto the local level. Many of the obstacles are reflections of contradictory perceptions, concerns, interests, and priorities, which are presented in the form of two arguments, namely the scale argument and the readiness argument, in this article. The close linkages between global and local environmental issues and the potential economic benefits rising from addressing global concerns at the local level may provide opportunities and incentives for cities to take action earlier. Although empirical studies in developed cities suggest that the most effective way to get municipal governments to address global concerns is by not talking about the "global", an overly localized policy might not always result in a net gain in a developing city setting. The temporal and spatial scales of urban design and management need to be extended beyond their boundaries, in order for cities to become champions in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### The role of backyards in the era of climate change and disappearing biodiversity

Prof Chris Daniels  
School of Natural and Built Environments  
University of South Australia  
and  
Director: BioCity@UniSA

AUSTRALIAN cities in general and Adelaide in particular are not parkland cities. They are low density sprawls located on biodiversity hotspots. Because the traditional house is on a reasonably large block (the myth is the ¼ acre, but most are ⅙<sup>th</sup> or smaller) has varied plantings of natives and introduced plants, much of the country's biodiversity resides in our own back yard. In contrast to cities in Europe and elsewhere, street vegetation and open space make a relatively small contribution to urban biodiversity. This talk explores the relationship between urban open space, particularly backyards, and wild life, and examines how the design of backyards (historically and deliberately) has shaped the make up of the urban faunal assemblage. It also examines the impact of the design of current and future suburban estates on biodiversity and hence on the "nature" of the society in suburbia into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Ecological landscapes, water sensitive urban design and green infrastructure

Dr Tony H F Wong  
Principal, EDAW

Landscapes are the product of natural and human-induced forces in varying relativities, interacting within a regional and global ecosystem. The talk will explore new thinking in ecological landscapes. The speaker will define the ecological landscape using a continuum framework that encompasses the perspectives of nature conservancy through to creating urban ecologies. Three broad functioning themes are proposed to characterise design objectives in ecological landscapes, distinguished by their degree of urban density, and complexity in relation to understanding the trade-offs between social and environmental sustainability. The three themes may be summarised as follows:

- (i) **Nature Conservancy** – framed by the objectives of building and conserving bio-diversity in flora and fauna in terrestrial and aquatic environments;
- (ii) **Natural/Urban Interface** – focussed around managing urban/natural environment interface, protecting high conservation areas, and mitigation and rehabilitation of environmental impacts of urbanisation. The focus is the transitioning of natural environments into a more complex and balanced landscape of natural and human-induced features that is the integration of physical, biological and social considerations; and
- (iii) **Urban Ecology** – urban design where the role of bio-mimicry to promote eco-system services; anthropogenic and natural features; landscape, art and science prominently influence the urban landscape.

No longer can just the understanding of the 'values' of open spaces and landscape features determine the design of urbanised landscapes. This knowledge needs to be bolstered through an understanding of the 'ecological functioning' of the ecosystem. It is only through the marriage of the knowledge of the values to be protected and the ecological functioning that a reliable basis for the prioritisation of design objectives can be developed for realising ecological landscapes.

Water and its management through Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in the urban landscape will be drawn upon to illustrate the concept of the ecological landscape. Water is the life blood of natural and urban environments; it underpins the ecological functions of natural environments but also drives industries, heats and cools homes, nurtures food, quenches thirst, sustains plants and carries waste. It is not only a pre-requisite for health. It is a source of life, power, comfort and delight – and a universal symbol of purification and renewal. In Australia, WSUD has evolved from its early association with stormwater management to provide a broader framework for sustainable urban water management. It provides a common and unified method for integrating the interactions between the urban built form (including urban landscapes) and the urban water cycle, and is increasingly practiced in new urban greenfield development areas and urban renewal developments. It is focused at a range of integrating at a range of scales in the built form encompassing building architecture, landscape architecture and public art.

The discussion will bring new insights to this essential design field by looking at a broad range of projects, both national and international, that integrate innovative engineering, environmental and design expertise. Ecological landscapes are not simply architectural/landscape features but provide ecosystem services that are comparable to traditional forms of urban engineering infrastructure.

# Reinvigorating Canberra's foreshore parks – the Canberra Central Parklands Competition 2007

Edwina Richardson AILA 2007

The Canberra Central Parklands Competition, held in 2007 by the National Capital Authority (NCA), created the opportunity to reinvigorate Canberra's lakeshore parklands, Commonwealth Park and King's Park. Both landscapes are nestled along Walter Burley Griffin's Central Basin and bounded by the imposition of the Parkway. Lunch time joggers, from nearby Defence buildings, take their life in their own hands as they await the moment when it is safe to dodge between traffic and exercise around the lake with its magnificent views.

Whilst Commonwealth Park was designed to be Canberra's premier park, it has suffered from a disconnection from the city centre (due to the parkway), changes in its function (a huge emphasis on preparation for the month long floral festival, Floriade in Spring), lack of visitation, poor maintenance and ongoing drought, or more likely climate change.

The 1965 Master Plan for Commonwealth Park, designed by the eminent Sylvia Crowe and William Holford of London, was only partially realized as many built elements were never constructed, such as a conservatory, floating kiosk and restaurant. The park was to serve dual roles as a place of leisure for visitors and as a centre for horticultural excellence.

Adjoining Commonwealth Park is King's Park, a more informal landscape of massed *Eucalyptus*, deciduous trees and an undulating landform clothed in grass. Many 3<sup>rd</sup> year University of Canberra Landscape Architecture students were given a chance to prepare a new design for King's Park under the guiding hand of Professor Ken Taylor.

The site is probably best known for its Carillon – the building perched on a small island, which houses a set of bells whose melodies flow over the lake. For my family, King's Park is the location of a gruelling North Canberra cross country event for children. The course, over undulating hills through bark shedding *Eucalypts*, presented a challenge for our children who were used to pounding the

concrete level pavements around their school. King's Park was also once home to a series of treated pine exercise stations, used by fitness fanatics from across the road at Defence.

King's Park and Commonwealth Park, comprising 115 hectares of prime lakeshore real estate provide a canvas for a contemporary interpretation of urban parkland.

The winning entry, by Oxigen, a South Australian firm, led by James Hayter with Travis Wright, provides an exciting, sustainable vision for the future of the twin parks. This scheme aims to filter urban stormwater before it enters the Lake, resolves and promotes pedestrian and cycle movements in a formal manner and uses appropriate landscape materials. More importantly it provides a model for producing green energy which is then fed into the city's electricity grid. Why not harness the sun and wind which Canberra is adequately blessed with?

A boardwalk and shelter are added to Nerang Pool, the central pond within Commonwealth Park. Extensive aquatic plants provide additional textural interest and a water cleansing role within the pond. Beaches are introduced to the lake edge, making the water more accessible and recalling the riverine beach at Casuarina Sands on the Cotter River.

Oxigen introduces the idea of the Australian Floriade Meadow. A series of spaces accessed by paths, are planted with the original grassland communities of the Limestone Plains, on which Canberra was built. Subtle textures, forms and colours replace the exotic gaudy alien bulbs and annuals of present day Floriade. Not only will this new planting approach to the landscape be environmentally positive (it will require less water, fertilizer and fuss) it will be reflective of Canberra's sense of place.

The winning entry maintains the distinction between the different characters of Commonwealth and King's Park. In the latter space, energy production becomes a priority.

Wind turbines are introduced into a large grassed space and solar collectors grace water filtration gardens. The humble stone building, Blundell's cottage, which provides a link to Canberra's pastoral culture is extended with a glass pavilion housing a café.

Employing a grand gesture, the original line of the lake penned by Griffin is replicated, not only providing a reference to the past and to the document, *The Griffin Legacy*, but it also acts to unify the two parks.

During a visit to Canberra in 1964, to discuss the potential commission for Commonwealth Park, Sylvia Crowe spoke of the "need to discover the real spirit and character of the Australian landscape" (AILA 2005). Hayter and Wright have admirably achieved this with their entry as well as imagining a design with excellent environment credentials. One can only hope that their plan is realized in its entirety.

This was an important competition for the landscape profession and it was heartening to have observed the professionalism of the NCA, the competition jury and all those involved. Well done! Landscape architects look forward to this sort of emphasis being placed on the future of our landscapes.

## References

AILA (2005). *Dame Sylvia Crowe: 1901–1997*. Retrieved August 24, 2007, from <http://www.aila.org.au/information/PROFILES/DameSylviaCrowe/crowe.htm>.

National Capital Authority (2004). *The Griffin Legacy*. National Capital Authority.

Canberra Central Parklands web site: [www.parklands.nationalcapital.gov.au](http://www.parklands.nationalcapital.gov.au)

**Image opposite page: Oxigen 2007**



Canberra Eucalyptus & Acacia, Glen's garden ACT

## The importance of plants in landscape design

Glen Wilson 2007

If we have allowed other professionals to talk us into using plants as mere decoration after they have 'had their way' with a site, then we are in a sorry state indeed. Most of our design work requires some planting, be it only one tree. The requirement of flora on a site means that we must regard it as an essential three dimensional component of design. Vegetation forms part of the 'solids' of our landscapes. And existing valuable trees particularly, may mean the new landscape design has to be strongly influenced by their presence. Architects and engineers who fail to have a landscape designer as a team member on important projects are doing themselves and their clients a disservice.

May years ago I was called to a domestic site that was dominated at the front by a huge Silver Birch in excellent condition. It appeared to be in 'the wrong place'. (It certainly had been badly placed) and the client wondered what we could do. After I presented the proposed design he said, 'Now the Birch is in the right place'. Someone else may have removed it due to fixed thinking.

In handling the documentation of all sorts of designers over the years it became apparent to me that many of them had an inadequate knowledge of plants and planting design. Also, it became quite clear that some of these folk had taken plant names out of books and catalogues without really knowing the plants. Such aids may be useful and a good guide provided:

- the plants will grow well in the considered climate and conditions, and
- they are generally available in nurseries. (After fifty years I still use reference books, *but* I already know a fair bit about the plants I'm checking on.)

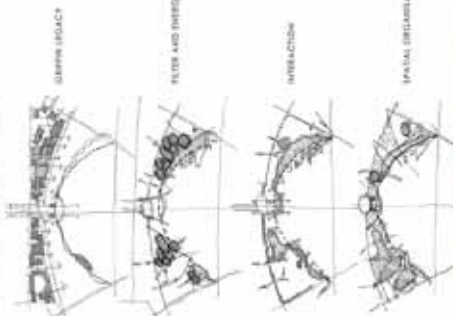
I once had a document in my hand from a professional designer that called for a number of a particularly showing and desirable Western Australian plant. It was never available then in any eastern state nursery and if it had been it could only be considered a 'hobby plant' – never a landscape plant. Brilliant coloured plates of flowering plants can be deceiving. These sort of blunders leave a designer with egg on the face!

As I came late to design I had to learn fast and one of my methods (as well as enrolling for Floriculture at Burnley Horticultural College) was to take a small piece of some plant I found attractive in form, foliage and flower, and ask some knowledgeable professional I knew, the name of it. Then I looked it up in one of the good plant books of the time, such as that of Ernest E Lord and the works of Thistle Harris covering native plants, that were usually available at the time. Now of course, we have access to many other splendid works for both Australian plants, such as the Elliot-Jones *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation*, the Wrigley and Fagg books, and for the general flora, *Botanica – the Illustrated A–Z of over 10,000 garden plants*. And there are many other books worth keeping on hand. Paul Thompson's, *Australian planting design* is essential reading for students of course, and even those of us who have been around for a while can learn from him.

Whilst selected plants are usually sited to fulfil functional requirements, attractive flowering habit is a welcome bonus. For reasons lost to me, some landscape designers seem to avoid using plants that may have showy flowers. Perhaps they are thought too 'gardensque'? But then maybe we should remember now and then that our profession is a modern extension of the noble art of Landscape Gardening.

# Reinterpreting the Griffin Legacy - New Directions in the Australian Landscape

The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. This project seeks to reinterpret the legacy of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



## LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

The landscape transformation is a key element of the Griffin Legacy, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The landscape transformation is a key element of the Griffin Legacy, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The landscape transformation is a key element of the Griffin Legacy, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family.

**PARK FEATURES**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.

**WATER GARDEN EDGE**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**LACIALE**  
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**WATER ROOMS**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**WEATHERS**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**WATER POOLS**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**WATER GARDEN EDGE**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**CELEBRATING THE GRIFFIN LEGACY**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL ETHOS**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



**CHARACTER**  
The Griffin Legacy is a landmark project in the Australian landscape, a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family. The Griffin family's legacy is a testament to the vision and leadership of the Griffin family, a family of visionaries who shaped the landscape of Australia.



## KANGUROOTS in Ireland

In June this year Neil Hobbs and Karina Harris were in Ireland to set up for their entry into the International Garden Festival at Emo Court, Co. Laois, Ireland. The festival was Ireland's first international garden festival. The festival runs from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 and features 15 very different contemporary gardens.

Emo Court is a neo-classical mansion designed by the Irish architect James Gandon in 1790. The festival along with those at Chaumont in France, the UK festival at Westonbirt and Métis in Canada, is a festival of ideas.

### Kanguroots: The Ethos Of The Garden

The garden name fuses the Irish theme of Duchas, or 'Roots' with contemporary Australia blending the themes of ancestral culture with the iconic marsupial, playing on the original spelling 'Kangaroo', employed by early settlers and many (Irish born) convicts to the British Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria.

The Harris Hobbs garden featured Indigenous Australian plants, including several Wollemi Pines, as well as work by Australian artists: an entry panel, 'Kanguroots', by Canberra graffitiist Thom Gascoigne, and place names letter-cut in Inverness sandstone by Ian Marr, who trained in Ireland.

Our garden tells the story of 'Three Edwards and a Ned', drawing on the links between three generations of Edward Killens (my forebears) who settled in and

around 'Ned Kelly country' – Kyneton and Jerilderie – and Ned Kelly himself. Ned Kelly, probably the most famous Australian of Irish descent, once pruned the roses of my great aunt and a Killen by marriage; and the youngest of the three Edward Killens (my great grandfather), aged 14, was working in the Jerilderie branch of the Bank of New South Wales when it was robbed by Ned Kelly in 1879.

The garden uses contemporary design expressed in a range of traditional garden design motifs linking themes of romance, individual freedom, pastoral life, hardship, dispossession and capital punishment within Irish background families' efforts to develop a pastoral empire in Australia. The Graffiti text on the entry panel completes the cycle to contemporary culture.

Kanguroots is designed as a theatrical space, entered past stage wings, focusing on the primeval spring, backed by plant material from the Jurassic Age – the Wollemi Pine. The effect is a recreation of a hidden hideaway, where Ned Kelly was taught the finer points of range, of form, colour and texture of the plants of the South Land.

The design moves sequentially from Ireland to Australia, with flights of imagination back and forth through time evinced by 'place-naming'.

More to be uploaded: [www.aila.org.au/roamings](http://www.aila.org.au/roamings)  
More on the competition: [www.igf.ie](http://www.igf.ie)



Kanguroots, photos Neil Hobbs



# New AILA Fellow for New South Wales: Adam Hunter FAILA

In awarding the fellowship, the National Council recognizes Adam Hunter's leadership within the profession, his promotion of the role of landscape architecture professional expertise in guiding multidisciplinary teams, and in pursuing a landscape architectural focus to environmental and public domain policy by government.

The fellowship also acknowledges Adam's ongoing commitment to mentoring and the nurturing of young practitioners, along with his advocacy for built environment issues through a range of professional bodies and technical committees.

## Profile

Adam Hunter graduated from the University of New South Wales in 1986 and after a false start with an Hawaiian resort guru settled into the lively environment of Forsite in Ultimo, Sydney.

The diverse background of the Directors and related work base, a young team from varied places, along with the shared work space of Director Ken Maher's Architectural practice created a dynamic and vibrant environment to start in the profession.

Just over two years at Forsite were followed by travel overseas. This included South America, into North America and across to Europe. Although extremely green at the outset, this year sowed the seeds of some enduring interests and questions in day to day professional life. The sensuous detail of abstracted form and texture of Burle Marx was counter played against the structure and simplicity of Dan Kiley's geometry. The potential role of public domain in shaping and defining a city's identity was made clearer than it had been to one who had grown up in Sydney where the harbour and coastline masked a lack of quality urban spaces equal to the city's role and potential.

A year of work in London followed. This was undertaken in a large multidisciplinary firm with multiple offices across the UK. An awareness of larger scale public domain projects, and the ability of the landscape architect to guide these grew during this time. A number of other Australian Landscape Architects were around London at that time working in offices of varied scales and all seemed highly valued for their skills and work ethic.

The route home was made through the African continent, an explosion of the senses in terms of both natural environment and the cultures inhabiting it, arriving back in Sydney in 1991.

After some short term bits and pieces working from home, a position became available at Environmental Partnership in Birchgrove. The firm had only been in this incarnation for two years with new Directors Michael Spackman, Elizabeth Mossop and Garry Prosser (a leisure and recreation planning expert) having joined Michael Ewings of Environmental Landscapes fame. Adam had worked with Elizabeth previously at Forsite, but by this time she was putting more time into academia. The other Directors were an eclectic mix and all extremely well respected.

Environmental Landscapes under Michel Ewings had a portfolio, which included milestone environmental design projects including Pitt Street Mall, Woollomooloo Basin, Sydney and Yulara Resort Township, Ayers Rock and provided a firm platform for the new practice. Major projects for the new partnership over this time included yet another Masterplan and Plan of Management for Bondi Beach and urban design masterplanning which had been developing as an area of particular focus and has included such projects as Cronulla, Cabramatta, Moree, Dubbo and Tamworth Town Centres designed by Michael Ewings.

During this time Garry Prosser left to pursue an academic career in northern NSW, and in 1994 with the partnership having run its five year course, Michael Spackman left to start Spackman Mossop in East Sydney. Before Michael left the Pymont Point Park project had been commenced by Environmental Partnership as one of the major public domain projects undertaken in Sydney, and the first which had involved a full commission for masterplanning, design development, and documentation. Design was completed in late 1995 and the park was constructed over the next year.

Adam was responsible for project management of design development and documentation of the park and worked closely with the Department Public Works in construction management. Other major projects undertaken by the practice during this time included the Entrance Town Centre directed by Michael Ewings and the Lower Prospect Canal Masterplan and Plan of Management managed by Adam Hunter both implemented as constructed works in the late 1990's.

During the late 1990's the firm became increasingly involved with strategic planning and policy work for state and local government in supplement to a steady base of civic and open space design. Adam directed projects including the 1998 Parramatta River Foreshore Improvement Plan – a

project undertaken in collaboration with EDAW, and the South Sydney Streetscape Masterplan and Public Domain Manual. This area of specialty for the practice has continued to this time and includes the Sydney Harbour Greening Guidelines, Homebush Bay West Public Domain Strategy, Blue Mountains Public Domain Manual, and the NSW National Parks, Parks Facilities Manual.

Adam became a Director of Environmental Partnership in 1999, and the office approach included projects undertaken as an "overall" studio and projects undertaken in specific teams under each of the two Directors. This provided an interesting blend of the skills, experience and styles of the two Directors. Michael Ewings continued a focus on regional town centres which included Wagga Wagga and Ballina, whilst the work base under Adam Hunter was a mix of design, planning, and strategy / policy work.

A plan was put in place in 1999 for Michael Ewings to ease out of active professional life by 2004 – and pursue other interests that work had largely precluded to that time – including sailing and developing a property northern NSW.

In the 30 years since Michael Ewings commenced private practice as Environmental Landscapes in Angel Place Sydney somewhere around 80 people have been involved in various stages of the practice. The office from the start has been a challenging and dynamic environment where an underlying rigour for design, technical, and project management excellence has provided the basis for highly capable landscape professionals, many of which have progressed to manage other or their own practices. Michael's commitment to a project vision and his energy to "make things happen" has been the catalyst for many major projects a number taking up to 2-3 years to develop from masterplan to detail design development and construction. His attention to detail is a major legacy for all those who have worked with him. The reputation, organization, processes, and skills he left the practice with are a significant legacy.

The transition took place in 2004 and since this time Adam has been running the practice with a talented and dedicated staff of seven remain at the Birchgrove office Sydney. Michael Ewings remains a valued advisor on a range of issues for those in the office, and has maintained his links to the profession with a series of ongoing civic design projects under the Environmental Landscapes banner and active involvement with the Australian Landscape Foundation. Michael was the major force behind the "Passionate Profession" DVD production in 2005.

There has been a period of consolidation since the 2004 transition but the practice is now developing a new specific direction. This includes maintaining a broad work base across the spectrum of the landscape architectural profession. Recent projects have included collaborations such as the current Hyde Park Masterplan Implementation Project with Turf Design Studio and Jeppe Aagaard Andersen for the City of Sydney, with Bruce Mackenzie on the Dee Why beachfront project, and with City of Sydney on Frog Hollow Reserve. Masterplan based plans of Management have continued to be a key area of work and have included Prince Alfred Park for the City of Sydney. Awards have included AILA awards for Pymont Point Park, South Sydney Streetscape Masterplan and Technical Manual, Lower Prospect Canal Masterplan and POM, Georges River Plan of Management, along with design awards from other professional bodies for Bass and Flinders Point Reserve, Brookvale Park, and Gosling Creek Reserve Orange.

Adam's approach is to create place specific design that is simple in form and structure, yet rich in fabric and texture. The challenge for the public domain policy area of work is to create an environment where sound, clear principles are able to be implemented in a creative and individual approach. The 2006 Parks Facilities Manual for NSW National Parks aims to achieve this goal and was a major multidisciplinary undertaking for the practice.

In terms of the office workplace, to continue to provide a comfortable, but at the same time challenging and inspiring workplace is the key goal for Environmental Partnership.



# Notices

## Careers – secondary school information

Looking for a pamphlet to hand out to secondary school students?

Or are you wishing to advise a school advisor or a student where to find career information?

A downloadable pamphlet and more links to information are now on the web site:

[www.aila.org.au/careers](http://www.aila.org.au/careers)

## National Stewardship Awards

In 2006, the AILA announced the inaugural National Stewardship Awards.

This award allows the AILA to give recognition to agencies and the owners who have made significant effort and commitment to look after our designed landscapes.

Submissions for these can be received any time

[www.aila.org.au/stewardship](http://www.aila.org.au/stewardship)

## Significant Landscapes

The inaugural listing of Significant Landscapes was announced last year with 26 sites listed and another 80 to be researched.

The criteria for a Significant Site is online. Nominations can be received any time.

[www.aila.org.au/significant](http://www.aila.org.au/significant)

## The AILA's Company Constitution

The AILA is a legal entity that has a Company Constitution. This important legal document was recently updated through a special general meeting.

The constitution is on the web site:

<http://www.aila.org.au/constitution>

## The AILA's Competition Policy

The AILA works with agencies to have their competitions relevant to the professions.

If agencies agree to the guidelines, the AILA is able to endorse their competition.

Agencies can download the policy from the web site:

<http://www.aila.org.au/competition>



Cover: Kanguroots



LANDMARK is produced by:

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

## AILA National Council 2005–2007

President – Mark Fuller FAILA

1<sup>st</sup> Vice president – Neil Hobbs FAILA

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jennifer Neales AILA

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