

**UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL VALUES
OF
KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE**



A report to the City of Hobart by
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Front cover photographs

Cubby, Knocklofty (K. Evans 2015)

Seat, Knocklofty (K. Evans 2015)

Fiona Allan memorial (K Evans 2015)

Shell, Knocklofty (Stuart Young 2015)

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Executive Summary

The ‘Understanding the Contemporary Cultural Values’ of Knocklofty Reserve project was instigated by the City of Hobart to improve understanding of the stories and community connections to the reserve (within living memory). The main method used for gathering stories and community values was the Knocklofty Open Day organised by the City of Hobart Bushcare, held on Sunday the 15th November 2015. A written survey and map was prepared which included a series of open-ended questions about associations with the reserve, particularly any memories and stories, as well as significant features and values.

In all, 83 completed surveys were completed, as well as some additional information gained through telephone calls, media interviews, and email. Of the surveys, 45 were completed by people who are aged 50 or more, 30 by people aged between 20 and 49, and five by young persons aged 19 or under. Three participants did not provide an age group.

For many of those in the 50 and over age group Knocklofty was their childhood playground – a place where they could play in the frog and quarry ponds, catch tadpoles, light fires, boil a billy, have picnics and make cubbies. Others have memories of Knocklofty as a work site – of the brickworks and quarries when they were in operation. A number of the participants remember the Pigeon House as a ruin, sometimes used by itinerants, and the extensive grassy lawns surrounding it that were used for playing cricket, family picnics and as a neighbourhood meeting place. Many of those in the 20 to 49 years age group also visited Knocklofty as children and remember the bush, quarries, frog ponds and importantly the freedom from adults that it gave them. Many brought their own children to Knocklofty in turn. The participants in the under 19 age groups mentioned activities such as learning to ride a bike, learning about the wildlife, history and geology and being involved in the Land to Sea team. Conservation works undertaken in recent years were generally applauded for making the reserve a more attractive place to visit, although some thought that tree planting at the Pigeon House and frog ponds, in particular, had obscured places of personal and community significance.

The landscapes and features of Knocklofty Reserve were found to have significant contemporary cultural values that include personal and community connections through childhood and family memories and stories, recreational value for walkers, cyclists and dog owners, an interest in flora, fauna, history and geology, the ‘bush’ experience close to suburbia, and involvement in conservation and school activities. Knocklofty Reserve as a place for children to play, learn new skills, explore, and gain some independence was found to be a significant contemporary cultural value across all age groups. The popularity of the frog ponds as a favourite place demonstrates this.

Recommendations from the project include: a children and teens’ contemporary cultural value study; an historic site research and archaeological survey; an oral history programme; management plan; and an interpretation/education plan.

Knocklofty Reserve:

“Understanding Contemporary Cultural Values”

1. INTRODUCTION

Knocklofty Reserve is a bush reserve covering 144 hectares on the hills adjacent to West Hobart and Mount Stuart, within three kilometres of the CBD of Hobart. It is linked to the Wellington Park and provides a refuge for native animals and plants, some of which are threatened or endangered. It is also a popular recreation area attracting bush walkers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, school, Guide and Scout groups. The ‘Understanding the Contemporary Cultural Values’ of Knocklofty Reserve project was instigated after community interest in the interpretation of specific sites within the reserve led the City of Hobart to identify a need to improve understanding of the stories and community connections to the reserve (within living memory). The findings of the project will inform the Council in developing a strategy that interprets those values. The City of Hobart is to be congratulated on taking such a community values driven approach.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance and support of the City Of Hobart Bushcare team has been greatly appreciated throughout the course of this study, especially with regard to the supply of a suitable map, providing important feedback on the survey proposals and in organising such a great day for the Knocklofty Open Day on Sunday 15th November. Particular thanks go to Lisa Cawthen, Bushcare Coordinator, Jess Fuller-Smith, Bushland Interpretation Officer and Martina Smith, Asset Information Coordinator, for all their help and advice. Thanks also to the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare group, particularly their President, Astrid Wright, for providing some background information and assistance with disseminating information about the Open Day and surveys.

We would also like to acknowledge the input of Alderman Anna Reynolds and her father Professor Henry Reynolds in providing fascinating family insights into the history of the reserve as well as contacts for other people with Knocklofty connections. The West Hobart Neighbourhood Watch group assisted with an article in their newsletter, the *Mercury* in featuring an article in the *Sunday Tasmanian* on 8th November and ABC radio’s Ryk Goddard on 12th November with an interview (with Alderman Reynolds). The Lansdowne Crescent Primary School Land to Sea program co-ordinator, Mandy Evans, provided us with information about that program and facilitated our stand at the Lansdowne Primary School Fair on 13th November. Importantly thanks are extended to all those who helped promote the Open Day and survey, who participated in the survey and/or provided information through means such as telephone, email or radio.

3. METHODOLOGY

The main method identified for gathering stories and community knowledge of the reserve was the Knocklofty Open Day organised by the City of Hobart Bushcare and held on Sunday the 15th November 2015 (10am – 2pm). In advance of the Open Day key stakeholders were interviewed such as the President of the Friends of Knocklofty, the Land to Sea program co-ordinator at Lansdowne Primary School and Alderman Anna Reynolds and her father Professor Henry Reynolds (who has a long connection with the reserve). This helped identify some key issues and stories and assist in framing the questions for a written survey.

In order to best capture people's memories and stories about Knocklofty a written survey was prepared and approved by the City of Hobart Bushcare project manager. A copy of this survey can be found in the Appendices. A map was also prepared by the City of Hobart staff for inclusion in the survey which identified key places in and around the reserve (past and present) including adjoining roads, car parks, lookouts, seats, picnic tables, tracks, the Knocklofty summit, the frog ponds, water reservoirs, the location of the old Pigeon House, the Sugarloaf, and the main quarries that are adjacent to the reserve. The questions were deliberately kept as open-ended questions to enable participants to write freely and qualitatively about their connections with the Knocklofty Reserve. An optional section at the end asked the participants their age range, post code, their name and address and if they would be interested in participating in a follow-up interview.

The questions were:

- How long have you been visiting Knocklofty?
- How has Knocklofty Reserve changed in the time that you have been visiting it?
- What is important to you about Knocklofty Reserve?
- What memories or stories do you have about Knocklofty?
- Do you have any favourite places on Knocklofty? Why are these special to you? Please mark them on the map overleaf.
- What changes, if any, would you like to see at Knocklofty Reserve?

Prior to the Open Day event the Bushcare team organised media communications through their facebook page, media releases, communications with their stakeholder groups, an advertisement in the *Mercury*, as well as in community papers such as the West Hobart Neighbourhood Watch. Posters and fliers were distributed to local schools, LINC Tasmania and local cafes. Alderman Reynolds also organised a feature article in the *Mercury* and radio interview on ABC Radio (Ryk Goddard) and identified a number of potential people to survey who had connections with the reserve. As consultants to the project Caroline Evans and Kathryn Evans also attended the Lansdowne Primary School Fair on Friday 13th November (5pm-6pm) to hand out fliers for the Open Day and surveys to those who were interested but couldn't attend on the day.

In all 83 completed surveys were collected as well as some additional information gained through telephone calls, media interviews, and email. Most (72) were gathered at the Open Day. The offering of free native plants was an extra incentive for people to complete the survey on the day. It was found that while the Lansdowne School Fair gave an excellent opportunity to

promote the event through distributing fliers it was not ideal for completing surveys as it was very noisy and busy and people were otherwise engaged at the time. A small number of surveys (11) were received in the mail, by email or in person (other than on the Open Day).

4. LIMITATIONS

The study undertaken focussed primarily on the stories and memories of Knocklofty Reserve as experienced in living memory. Memories and stories provide very personal and subjective views of history which can add much to our understanding of individual, family and community connections, experiences and interactions with a place. It was beyond the scope of this project, however, to undertake a more thorough and objective historical research study of Knocklofty Reserve through archival documents and other sources. The historical background provided in this report draws heavily upon work already undertaken by others on the earlier history of the reserve.

The strong reliance on the Open Day to collect surveys, whilst, having a good response, may not have captured some of the older generation with stories or memories as mobility or transport problems may have prevented them from attending on the day. A number of such people were identified through talking to others and it is recommended that the City of Hobart provide resources for some follow up interviews with these people. There were also a very small number of surveys completed by children and teenagers. The survey did not ask for participants to state their gender. These limitations may need to be addressed in any future surveys. Respondents to the survey were also self selected, that is, it was not a random selection of users. Those who attended the Open Day and completed the surveys would presumably already have a high level of engagement with Knocklofty Reserve.

The survey was formatted in a WORD document with map attached and was more difficult to fill out via email. An online survey may have assisted with those completing the survey remotely. Council staff experimented with producing an app for the day but had difficulties making it workable.

The open-ended nature of the questions on the survey was aimed at eliciting qualitative responses. Whilst this gives a good deal of personal information about connections with the reserve, including stories and memories, it is more difficult to analyse the results in statistical terms. Most people gave multiple answers to any one question, making comparisons or quantification difficult. When answering the question 'Do you have any favourite places on Knocklofty? Why are these special to you? Please mark them on the map overleaf' - some people gave answers which were unclear or difficult to identify their exact location (such as unspecified lookouts/views), or referred to a large area, making it difficult to compare answers and put into a statistical format. This needs to be borne in mind when using the graphs in section 10. Despite these difficulties in quantification, a qualitative approach is still regarded as the most appropriate way to discover the community contemporary values of Knocklofty Reserve.

For future surveys, it is also suggested that the question asking respondents for their memories and stories might be a good opening question and assist them in identifying more fully what is

important to them about the reserve. For example, although a number of respondents to the survey recalled very vivid childhood stories and memories, in response to the question ‘What is important to you about Knocklofty?’ they did not necessarily put childhood memories as an important value.

5. KNOCKLOFTY: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area around Knocklofty formed part of the territory of the Mouheneenner band of Aborigines from the South East tribes. The South East Aborigines operated in large groups harvesting shellfish from the coast and hunting birds, kangaroos and wallabies in the hinterland during all seasons of the year (Ryan 1996, p. 39-40). Aborigines used fire for warmth and cooking but also for clearing and renewing feeding grounds for native animals and to flush out game for hunting. A long history of Aboriginal burning created a country that many early explorers to Tasmania described as ‘open woodland’ with widely spaced trees, little undergrowth and a grass covering. Around present day Hobart the rivulet was more thickly vegetated, but was flanked by grassy forest which rose to Mt Wellington which had a covering of some very large trees (Gammage 2012, p. 246-250).

It is most likely that Knocklofty’s use by Aboriginal hunting groups would have maintained a predominantly light forest kept clear of undergrowth by a long history of firing. It had a large area of flat land well suited for hunting, as well as permanent waterholes or springs (Reynolds 2005, p. 20). Rock caves in the vicinity of Knocklofty provided shelter.

These Aboriginal hunting grounds also attracted early European interest from hunting parties in search of native game, and those in search of easily accessible resources such as timber and stone. The first European settlement at Sullivan’s Cove was in 1804. By 1829 the Knocklofty hill had earned the name of Woodman’s Hill and had largely been stripped of timber for firewood and building timber. Forest Road was constructed to haul wood out by bullock teams. By 1839 the area is referred to on Frankland’s map of Hobart as Knocklofty. It was most likely named by a Scottish settler – ‘cnoc’ being Gaelic for hill (Champion and Ault n.d.).

James Ross, a Scottish teacher, publisher and newspaper editor, was the first European to own what is now Knocklofty Reserve. He was granted twelve acres in 1827 and built ‘Paraclete’ in what is now Summerhill Road. Four years later he was granted a further 300 acres of land on the lower slopes of Knocklofty. The grant was later broken up and a succession of owners used the land for timber, grazing and quarrying (Champion and Ault n.d.). An early landmark at Knocklofty was the Pigeon House which had a gabled roof with loft. It was referred to in 1829 by Mrs Prinsep who wrote in her journal:

‘The owner of a pretty pigeon-house, commanding a splendid panorama from the top of a high hill behind the town ... offered to board and lodge us all for six months. The house was (literally) against the light – pervis [sic] to every wind’. The offer was declined (Goodrick 1986, p. 74).

In 1837 the property was offered for sale and described as comprising over ninety eight acres including the original Knocklofty allotment.

‘It is well-watered, by a creek running into the Hobart town rivulet in Liverpool Street and by a pond never dry. There are two gardens well furnished with fruit trees in full bearing, two substantially built stone cottages, to one of which is attached a most excellent fowl and pigeon house, and other outbuildings. There is a good flagstone quarry in Salvator Rosa’s glen, leading from glen Sable (Mr Mannings) let to an improving tenant’ (*Hobart Town Courier* 3 February 1837, p. 3).

Many of Hobart’s fine buildings, such as banks, churches and schools, as well as residences, were constructed from stone quarried from the slopes of Knocklofty, with Rippon Shields being one of the main companies to operate in the area. The remains of quarrying can be seen today in the form of quarry faces and borrow pits. As the sandstone suitable for building became more difficult to obtain, attention turned to brick making (Champion and Ault n.d.)

Knocklofty was one of the major brick making sites in Hobart. In 1882 a brick works was established by Rippon Shields. It was later owned by Cheverton. It was an extensive plant that covered over twenty acres and produced 40 000 to 50 000 bricks per week. By 1915 it was owned by Crisp and Gunn who continued operations until 1965 when it was closed and later demolished (Champion and Ault n.d.).

As well as its use for resources such as hunting, timber getting, grazing, quarrying and brick manufacture Knocklofty Reserve also has a long history of recreational use. It has featured significantly in early artworks. The Salvator Rosa Glen (off Salvator Road) was painted by John Glover and others in the 1800s. Knocklofty has also featured in literature such as Jessie Couvreur’s 1895 novel *Not Counting the Cost* (Champion and Ault n.d.)

Over the period 1942-1943 much of the Knocklofty Reserve was acquired by the Hobart City Council (now City of Hobart) to protect it from further wood cutting and with the aim of creating large areas of mountain park close to the city that could be extended and linked. Small additions have since been made to the area of the reserve. In 1979 the Forest Road Reserve was incorporated in the Knocklofty Reserve (Goodrick 1986, p. 20).

As the population of West Hobart grew improvements in water supply became necessary and two reservoirs in Forest Road and Hill Street were constructed, augmented by a further reservoir on Knocklofty between 1958 and 1960 (Champion and Ault, n.d.).

Knocklofty became a popular place for local children to explore. Henry Reynolds recalls growing up on the edge of the Knocklofty bush in the late 1940s and 1950s where he and others would roam the bush, dodging young men with air rifles and snakes. A focal point was the area known as the Pigeon House – a flat ledge with access from points in West Hobart, Mount Stuart and South Hobart. There was a central pond and old brick farmhouse which became ruinous. Picnics and cricket games were held in the locality and tadpoles were collected from the ponds. Others used the area for hunting rabbits with traps, guns or ferrets or greyhound training (Reynolds 2005, pp. 18-19). Henry’s older sister Mary recalls:

‘Children of Knocklofty were the original Bushwalkers, Rockclimbers, cave explorers and Bush Botanists. There were deserted sites of past activity to explore – quarries and

ponds, the Pigeon House and the red brick Cheverton/Kemp and Denning Brick Kiln – in the 1940s no one would have vandalised it ... At the base of most of the quarries were deep ponds with lots of frogs and tadpoles. They made quite a chorus or “Blonk Blonk” until we got close. All around the ponds and paths there was a sticky yellow clay. In the big quarry up Poet’s Road we found fossils of ferns and coral.

My Dad remembered the Chinese market gardeners removing much of the topsoil from Knocklofty. They carried it in baskets to enrich their gardens in Providence Valley, which is now Mellifont Street. After heavy rain, torrents of water washed yellow clay and soil from Knocklofty down the deep gutters each side of Warwick Street ...

...Visiting the caves at the end of Poet’s Road was a big adventure, exciting and risky – a narrow, slippery track with a big drop straight down. One day Jimmy Butterworth slipped and fell down in the big deep frog pond ...’

She also remembers having picnics neat the Sugarloaf, making fires to cook sausages and filling the billy from the pond to make tea (Reynolds 2012-2013).

According to Goodrick who wrote a history of West Hobart:

‘My own personal recollections of West Hobart go back to the 1930s. They are only fragments of memories about the Brickworks up in Arthur Street and the frogponds above them, where the gorse and broom grew profusely over lower Knocklofty... The landmark best remembered by the people I spoke to concerning the early days in West Hobart, was the old Pigeon House on Knocklofty above Lansdowne Crescent’ (Goodrick 1986, p. 74).

Local community groups, such as the Girl Guides, Scouts, schools, Landcare and progress associations, and more recently a Bush Care group (Friends of Knocklofty) have all had involvement with the reserve in various ways over the years. A track on the Mount Stuart side of Knocklofty was formed by the work of the Mount Stuart Guides in 1978 and named in honour of a local Guide leader, Fiona Allan, who perished in Nepal in that year (*Mount Stuart News* December 2006).

6. KNOCKLOFTY: CONSERVATION HISTORY

Prior to, but increasingly following the formation of the Knocklofty Reserve in 1942-43, the reserve was used by local residents for a range of recreational purposes such as hunting rabbits, training greyhounds, picnics, childhood explorations and bush walking. Gorse and other weeds became predominant in some areas, and the area generally lacked an active management regime and amenities.

In 1983 a development and management plan was adopted by the Hobart City Council identifying management issues such as land use, vegetation, weeds, fire hazards and recreational use. Recommendations included fire hazard reduction and rehabilitation of ‘degraded’ bushland.

Some of the water filled quarries were drained, a car park established at Forest Road and some tracks upgraded to assist fire access (Ault 2002).

In 1992 a group of local residents formed the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group [FOKL] who carried out weed removal and tree planting, predominantly in the Fielding Drive subdivision and the lower Forest Road entrance. In 1995 Council appointed a Bushland Officer which was later expanded to a Bushcare team, which encourage and support Bushcare groups in all City of Hobart reserves. The FOKL, in conjunction with the Council, expanded their removal of woody weeds and planting to the eastern side of Knocklofty Reserve and began monthly afternoon work activities (Ault 2002).

The Council produced a fire management plan in 1998 which included a flora and fauna survey. The following year FOKL received funding from the Natural Heritage Trust for a three year project to 'restore the threatened flora communities and habitats for threatened fauna on Knocklofty'. With this funding a Vegetation Management Plan was financed (North 2001). Over the subsequent period a huge amount of effort has been expended by this, and other community groups, in weed removal and bush regeneration. The implementation of the Vegetation Management Plan led to the clearance of woody weeds from 98.7 hectares, involving voluntary work by a number of community groups. Also under the NHT grant over 13 000 seedlings were planted, again involving a number of local community, school and environmental groups. Seed collection has also been a focus of the FOKL. A photographic record was made of selected sites to demonstrate the effect of rehabilitation activities (J and A Ault 1999 and 2002).

Another major focus of the FOKL has been the restoration of eight frog ponds, including some hard landscaping to improve run-off to the ponds and plantings and soft landscaping around five of the ponds. An old industrial dam was restored as the Frog Dam. This work began in 1998. A viewing area was constructed and tracks leading to and from the dam were provided and a booklet 'Bringing the Frogs back to Knocklofty' produced. In 2002 rehabilitation of the largest pond on the reserve was begun by the Hobart City Council Bushcare crew.

Following the restoration of eight ponds a water watch program was instigated to monitor water quality and frog habitat. A wildlife consultant, Stephen Mallick, also conducted a study, including trappings, of small mammals on the reserve (Mallick 2001). In response the habitat of the eastern barred bandicoot was tackled with the planting of prickly shrubs to provide a bandicoot shelter corridor. *Eucalyptus globulus* has also been planted in two areas to provide habitat for the endangered swift parrot which is known to visit the area.

In terms of cultural heritage management, an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment was carried out by a consultant in 1999. While no sites were found on the reserve itself sites were identified on private land adjoining. The absence of sites in the reserve was considered most likely to be due to the high degree of historic landscape disturbance, through activities such as road making, excavating and quarrying, etc (Stanton 1999). Two members of the FOKL also researched and wrote a history of the reserve from European settlement in 1803 for use as an educational pamphlet (Champion and Ault n.d). Some of this basic historical information has been included on interpretative signage installed c2002 and is also available on the FOKL website. Other

interpretative and directional signs were also installed at the reserve including a map showing tracks, and signage at the Frog Dam (Ault 2002). The John Glover trail with interpretative signage was installed in 2004.

In 2003 the Council and a Green Corps team constructed new tracks, carried out weed management, revegetation, landscaping and a swift parrot habitat (*Mercury* Feb 1 2003).

In recent years, Lansdowne Primary School staff and children have been involved in researching and preparing an interpretive trail with QR codes and website for the Land to Sea program. This has recently won a National Landcare Award. The trail and website outlines a range of values on Knocklofty including the geological features of the area, the European history of timber getting and quarrying, John Glover connections, as well as the importance of the area for wildlife habitat, including birds and frogs. The website has an Indonesian translation for each entry.

7. KNOCKLOFTY: CURRENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The City of Hobart has responsibility for managing 4589 hectares (ha) of bushland; 2966 ha within the municipal boundaries of Hobart, and 1623 ha outside of the Hobart council area. Knocklofty Reserve is one of a number of bushland reserves managed by the council, including the Queens Domain, Bicentennial Park, Wellington Park and Trugannini reserve. Knocklofty Reserve covers 144 hectares of bushland adjacent to the suburbs of West Hobart, Mount Stuart and South Hobart.

In 2008 the City of Hobart produced a Bushland Management strategy with the vision statement:

The Council in partnership with the local community will retain, promote and enhance the unique character and values of Hobart's bushland for the long term environmental, social and economic benefit of the community.

The key objectives are:

1. Protection, enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage values.
2. Maintenance and protection of watercourses and associated water quality measures contained within bushland areas.
3. Reduction of threatening processes, which are degrading, or which could degrade bushland values.
4. Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded bushland.
5. Improving community awareness of bushland values.
6. Encouraging community participation in managing bushland.
7. Facilitating public use for recreation and enjoyment of bushland compatible with conserving its natural and cultural values.
8. Working co-operatively with other agencies, community groups and individual landholders to manage bushland areas.
9. Recognising the strong link between Tasmania's Aboriginal people and Hobart's bushland values with inclusive management practices.

Cultural heritage is identified in the strategy as taking three main forms – historic cultural heritage, Aboriginal heritage and cultural landscapes. Cultural landscape is defined as ‘a landscape that results from the intersection of plants, animals and people over time’. Hobart’s bush areas provide cultural landscapes both as a backdrop to the city, but also as unique cultural landscapes in their own right, such as at Knocklofty Reserve.

The City of Hobart manages much of its bush land in conjunction with community groups, predominantly through its Bushcare program. The Bushcare officers provide training and support to volunteers who ‘help to regenerate and preserve Hobart’s bushland, working to protect local biodiversity, maintain ecosystems and enhance wildlife habitat’ (Bushcare leaflet).

The Knocklofty Reserve is managed in conjunction with the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare group, first established in 1992. In the past the group has been active in weed removal, tree planting, wildlife monitoring and habitat restoration, including the restoration of frog ponds. An Aboriginal heritage site assessment has been carried out by a consultant, and interested persons in the group have done a limited amount of historical research about Knocklofty’s European history.

The current main focus of the FOKL group is to maintain ‘natural’ values primarily through weed removal. Tree planting is now in abeyance due to higher levels of planning permissions required and the perception that some areas may have been inappropriately re-planted in the past, such as in native grasslands and around the frog ponds. The current group prefer keeping infrastructure to a minimum to emphasise the ‘naturalness’ of the Knocklofty Reserve (Astrid Wright pers. comm.).

8. KNOCKLOFTY AS ‘CULTURAL LANDSCAPE’

Knocklofty Reserve may be considered a ‘cultural’ landscape, containing both ‘historic’ values and ‘contemporary’ cultural values. The Bushland Management Strategy (2008) defines historic cultural values as those dating prior to 1945.

Simon Schama, in *Landscape and Memory*, points out that all landscapes are essentially human constructs. ‘It is difficult to think of a single such natural system that has not, for better or worse, been substantially modified by human culture’ ... Even so-called wilderness is ‘as much the product of culture’s craving and culture’s framing as any other imagined garden ... The wilderness, after all, doesn’t locate itself, does not name itself’ (Schama 1995, p. 6-7).

In the Australian context, Lennon (1988) and Fahey (1991) have both highlighted how national parks and reserves, although originally reserved for their ‘natural’ qualities, may have, in fact had, a long history of human occupation from Aboriginal times to the present. These may include a European history of resource extraction through timber getting, quarrying, mining, forestry and grazing, and recreational use, all of which have left marks on the landscape. Both argue that, at times, the focus on natural values in parks management has led to evidence of

human history being inappropriately removed or covered up (Fahey 1991, pp. 174-175; Lennon 1986, p. 2).

As an historic cultural landscape Knocklofty Reserve retains many remnants of past use, such as sandstone quarries dating back to the early years of European settlement, remnants of once large clearings that were used for grazing (and possibly Aboriginal hunting prior to European settlement), and also later for recreational use, such as picnics and cricket matches. There are also old tracks, old fences, water supply infrastructure, and hut and home site ruins. There are ruins of the old Pigeon House, which was a landmark dating back to the 1820s, but, which by the 1950s and 1960s was in a ruinous state and provided shelter for itinerants and a play area for local children. Other more natural features, such as the Sugarloaf and frog ponds, loom large in the community's memories of the area and hold social value. There are also views and vistas, such as the Salvator Rosa Glen at the end of Salvator Road, that hold significance for their scenic and aesthetic qualities, and associations with notable colonial artists, such as John Glover. Other sites, such as the quarry and site of the old brickworks at the end of Arthur Street are adjacent but not part of the reserve.

Some of the historic sites, such as old quarry faces and borrow pits, have through past conservation works, been 'covered up' with tree planting regimes. Views such as that experienced by John Glover through the Salvator Rosa Glen are now no longer visible due to vegetation growth in the intervening period. What were once extensive clearings near the frog ponds have largely been re-vegetated. Reynolds laments this practice;

'I have been increasingly disturbed by the industry of the Hobart City Council and the local land care group, which are planting trees all over our common. They are not taking it away from us by enclosing it but by vegetating it. I appreciate that the work is thoroughly professional and carried out with the best of intentions. But each time I return now I have a sense of loss. Don't they understand, I wonder? Don't they know the history of the Pigeon House and its place in the lives of generations? Why do they continue to overplant my heritage?' (Reynolds 2005, p. 20).

Reynolds also questions the appropriateness of planting large numbers of trees in an area that, in Aboriginal times, may have been more 'open' country kept clear by Aboriginal firing (Reynolds 2005, p.20).



Fig. 1 Photograph showing tree plantings in front of old quarry face (K. Evans 2015)



Fig. 2 Remnant clearing and rubble at the site of the old Pigeon House. This clearing was once much more extensive but has been reduced through tree planting and natural regeneration (K. Evans 2015)

As well as these historic values, the landscapes of Knocklofty Reserve also hold contemporary cultural values for the local community. Taylor points out the importance of landscapes to our individual and community sense of place and belonging: ‘landscape is the nerve centre of our personal and collective memories ... They tell the story of people, events and places through time, offering a sense of continuity, a sense of the stream of time.’ (Taylor 2008).

In a study of English hedgerows, Oreszczyn and Lane (2000) argue that hedgerows hold a range of significant values for the contemporary community, including representing the English national identity, as important links to the past, for their aesthetic qualities in providing diversity in the landscape, for their ephemeral qualities, as special places in people’s childhood memories, and as contributing to a sense of place. Some values were personal and emotional, others were more rational. While these cultural values were common amongst a range of groups in the local population, differing views were held as regards to their management. While experts emphasised the native wildlife and flora and made reference to ‘habitats’ and ‘wildlife corridors’, many in the community saw wildlife as just one of a range of features or values that attracted them. The study found that individual people form complex relationships with the landscape around them and that the images people hold of the countryside are based on their experiencing of it and their relationship with it, rather than any notions of what would be ‘perfect’. They were also aware that the countryside may change over time. Oreszczyn and Lane recommend a participatory/consultative rather than expert driven approach to the management of such assets (Oreszczyn and Lane 2000).

In instigating this study of contemporary cultural values of Knocklofty Reserve the City of Hobart is acknowledging the importance of community connections with the reserve through identifying key stories and memories (in living memory), as well as community values and visions for the future. Such stories and memories may assist in interpreting those significant values to the wider community. The Open Day provided an important opportunity to record the contemporary cultural values of the Knocklofty Reserve. It can be seen from the survey findings

below that the landscapes and features of Knocklofty Reserve have significant contemporary cultural values that include personal and community connections through childhood and family memories and stories, recreational value, an interest in flora, fauna and geology, the ‘bush’ experience close to suburbia, and involvement in conservation activities.

9. SURVEY RESULTS

Of the 83 completed surveys received, 45 were completed by people who are aged 50 or more, 30 by people aged between 20 and 49, one by a young person aged between 13 and 19, and four by children under 12. Three participants in the survey did not provide an age range. The length of time that participants have been visiting Knocklofty varied between those who were there for the first time and 75 years. In the 50 or more age group 30 participants (about 68%) had connections with the reserve of more than 20 years. Two of the three respondents who did not provide their age had connections of a similar length of time. Among the participants aged 20 to 49 years, 8 of the 30 had connections of 20 years or more (26%). Of the 71 participants who provided a postcode for where they live, 43 (about 60%) were from the 7000 area (West Hobart, Mount Stuart, North Hobart), 7 (about 10%) were from the 7004 area (South Hobart) and 6 (over 8%) were from the 7008 area (Lenah Valley and New Town).

The following is a summary of the answers to the questions on the survey.

How has Knocklofty Reserve changed in the time that you have been visiting it?

Fifty and over age group

The number of years that people had visited Knocklofty affected their perception of change. Those who had known it for sixty years or more noticed that suburbia had made inroads so that the acreage of bush had diminished. On the other hand, the vegetation was thicker, with more trees, especially in the area around the Pigeon House which had once been open, like ‘big lawns’, according to one survey. For another the re-growth around the Pigeon House meant that it had lost its ‘magical quality’. Some participants also mentioned the agricultural and industrial uses of Knocklofty. One commented that the bulls belonging to the Fieldings were gone. There was also no more brick works. A participant who has known Knocklofty for forty-one years remembered it being quarried for road building in the 1970s and the sound of stone crushers.

Those who have visited Knocklofty for between five and forty-one years were more likely to notice that the gorse, blackberries, and other exotic weeds had been removed and that there was more planting. One participant who has known Knocklofty for thirty-five years used to go black berry picking around the frog ponds. Now it was ‘hard to find a weed, gorse virtually eliminated. Many areas, once only weed infested, now flourishing with local provenance nature’.

Participants also commented that there are better and more tracks, that there is now seating, and improved information and interpretation. Knocklofty had, according to one, become a much more ‘inviting place’. Participants also noticed that there are more people using the reserve, including those on mountain bikes and walking dogs. Only one participant commented on the further encroachment of houses, noting that Knocklofty looks less bushy from the suburbs than it did twenty-five years ago.

One participant, although commenting positively that Knocklofty was now a ‘well loved walking area’ compared to the 1970s, is concerned that many of the native birds have gone. In addition, the participant expressed disappointment that, in 2000, the Hobart City Council had widened and gravelled the Fiona Allan Track, originally developed by the Mt Stuart Girl Guides. The Council also cleared plants put in by the Guides. This participant felt that the track was now ‘something completely different’ and ‘no longer a peaceful walking track’.

Participants visiting Knocklofty for under five years were less likely to see changes. Even so, some of them had noticed the growth of vegetation and that the reserve was ‘healthier’. One noted the upgraded walking tracks on the Summit Loop.

Twenty to forty-nine age group

The length of time that participants in the twenty to forty-nine age group have visited Knocklofty ranged from forty-three years to seven months. None of them mentioned the grassy area around the old Pigeon House, although a couple noted that there was more vegetation around the frog ponds now. More generally, they noticed that there is more growth, with one saying that Knocklofty seems ‘more bushy’ and another that the trees are ‘taller’. Yet another noticed that there is more vegetation around the views. Other changes are the removal of weeds, especially gorse and blackberries, better paths, and more signage. One noted that the viewing platform on the tank at the top of the Corby Avenue path had gone. Another mentioned the Fielding Drive housing development, writing ‘a huge tree was taken out in order for the road to go through’. A few said that Knocklofty has become more popular, with one expressing concern that off-lead dog walking had diminished wildlife.

Young People and Children

Young people and children did not notice much change although one said that there are now more tracks, plants, and trees. Another mentioned the Land to Sea QR codes.

What is important to you about Knocklofty Reserve?

Fifty and over age group

Most of the participants in the fifty and over age group like Knocklofty because of its natural qualities. They enjoy seeing the flora, birds, and animals and appreciate its value as a reserve for wildlife. One mentioned that it is interesting to observe the way the bush regenerates after a fire. These natural qualities were seen as even more valuable because Knocklofty is close to Hobart and easy to access. One participant described it as ‘the lungs of the city’. Another wrote that it is a place ‘to relax, to refresh, to reconnect to the outdoors that is accessible without a car. It is a little bit of the wild (albeit subdued) but at my backdoor’. Yet another said: ‘Being able to reach bushland so close to town (on foot) being able to walk extensively – hearing birds, seeing wallabies & quolls, being around them’.

Many of these participants found that Knocklofty is peaceful and safe with well marked paths, that it is a good place to walk with or without dogs. It provides opportunities for orienteering and

mountain bike riding. Knocklofty is also a good place for school excursions and for children to explore. A couple of participants mentioned the fine views of the city.

For people who have visited Knocklofty for sixty years or more, it is valued for childhood memories. As one participant said, it was ‘our summer playground’. Another described it as a ‘cherished childhood place’. A third wrote: ‘It was a big part of my childhood and learning independence, bush skills and amazing imaginative games ... sometimes mildly violent (cowboys and Indians, war games)’.

Twenty to forty-nine age group

Like the fifty and older age group, participants aged between twenty and forty-nine value Knocklofty for its natural values and closeness to town. They appreciate its flora, birds, and fauna, citing especially the frog ponds and spotted quolls. One was interested that the vegetation is different to Mt Wellington’s. These participants also enjoyed the views of the city.

They differ from the older age group in that although one mentioned childhood memories, as a group they emphasised the importance of Knocklofty as a place to bring their children now. One appreciated Knocklofty’s ‘natural ambience, undeveloped feel. Peaceful bushland setting. Even though we have young children it is nice there is no play equipment so children appreciate its natural bushland setting’. Another wrote: ‘We love access to the bush for the entire family. We value the flora & fauna, the views, exercise, dog access’. A third values Knocklofty because: ‘Its beautiful, peaceful, safe, easy access, close to our house, natural (not too developed) and lots of hidden, off the path, areas for play & exploration’.

Young People and Children

The young people and children enjoy the closeness of Knocklofty to home and being able to walk and ride there. They like its animals, geography, history, and flora. Those involved in Lansdowne Crescent School’s Land to Sea project enjoy teaching people about these aspects of Knocklofty.

What memories or stories do you have about Knocklofty?

Fifty and over age group

Participants who had known Knocklofty for between seventy-five and twenty-eight years were most likely to emphasise their childhood memories of it. Knocklofty was their playground, a place where they could play in the frog and quarry ponds, catch tadpoles, light fires, boil a billy, have picnics at the Pigeon House, play cowboys and Indians or Tarzan swinging on a vine, and make cubbies. The following is one participant’s description of her activities in the 1950s:

‘We would go on expeditions up to the Pidgeon [sic] House and beyond. No parents! We had tomahawks and would cut saplings and make cubby houses. Build fires and boil the billy & cook potatoes in the coals. We loved to explore several water ponds surrounded by rocky outcrops. The girls name these with mystical names etc. There was swan lake (the one that is now fenced off). We would collect tadpoles ... There were large rectangular sandstones lying about over a very large grassy field ... One of the stones had “rude” words carved in it. I think it was F... An

adult turned this face down when we weren't there but we would roll it over to expose the inscription'.

Others have memories, or can retell family memories, of Knocklofty as a work site. The grandparents of one of the participants owned thirteen acres on Knocklofty, including a quarry and house at the end of Salvator Road. There was a flying fox to the house used to transport wood. The grandfather died in a quarry accident. Another participant went with her father to visit the brickworks. It was raining so her father made them hessian raincoats. She wrote: 'Tram tracks with trollies moved the bricks around. I think the kiln was in the centre of radiating semicircular canals which were bricked up and mortared with clay slurry – it always amazed me that they began creamy coloured'.

A number of the participants remember the Pigeon House as a ruin. According to one, it had thirteen rooms and a cellar. By the time that participant used to visit it, the windows and doors were gone. Another participant remembers going up to the area with a man known as Pop Mansfield, to collect 'hot' sand (used to make mortar) for builders. He saw gypsies in the Pigeon House: 'While he was shovelling I wandered over to the old cottage ... Getting near I was confronted by a young man who raised his arm in a threatening manner. Pop shouted to me to stay away, they are Gypsies. I did'.

One of the participants used to lead the Mount Stuart Guide Company in the 1970s. She took the Guides to Knocklofty to clear gorse and boxwood. They planted native flowering shrubs to replace it. The Guides carried garbage bins of water up to the plants. They built a camp fire area out of the box thorn. When Fiona Allan, a former leader of the Ranger Guides, died in Nepal at the age of twenty-two, they built a single file walking track so that walkers could enjoy the birds, in her memory. The Guides put in about thirty railway sleepers to prevent erosion and planted the native trees and shrubs donated to the project. Another Guide project was to put ninety-seven railway sleepers into the western face to improve access for firemen and children.

The rest of the participants in this age group have been visiting Knocklofty for between one and twenty-five years. They remembered walks with family, friends, and the dog. One wrote:

'lots of walks ... visits to the Frog Ponds with our children, local children using it as their backyard to play imaginatively, school excursions, losing our dog on Knocklofty only to find her at our back door ... Struggling up the Summit Loop, it's the "Jewel in the Crown" for us and a major reason for staying put'.

The favourite memory of another was 'the look of pure joy on the faces of dogs when they run about off leash'.

This group tended to remember the natural environment. One had been a member of Friends of Knocklofty since 1992. Others have happy memories of sighting particular birds and animals, for instance the dusty wood swallow, large snakes, whip snakes, a barred bandicoot, and echidna. Another wrote:

'Taking a school group to look at rocks and fossils in their neighbourhood was a highlight. I enjoyed exploring the tracks and taking my young children there to learn about plants and

animals in their local patch of bushland. Seeing snakes is always a great drama – memorable in a positive way’.

One participant mentioned uncovering cultural heritage as a particular memory.

Hot and cold weather events were also memorable. A participant mentioned ‘days of mist and snow on the top’. Another was concerned that during the bush fires of the 1980s, ‘West Hobart would go up in smoke!’.

Personal Communications

There were also a few phone calls, e-mails or meetings with people who, apart from one, did not fill in a survey. Even so, they had memories of Knocklofty that they wished to communicate. These memories came from their childhoods and were similar to those of the fifty and over age group that had been visiting Knocklofty for between seventy-five and twenty-eight years.

These participants remember picnics on the grassy area at the top of the Sugarloaf, cutting willows to make bows and arrows in Salvator Rosa Glen, having a smoke or playing in the caves there, ‘cliff climbing’ and lighting camp fires. However, even if the children started playing nearer to home, the high points of their activities were at the Pigeon House. One woman remembers exploring the area close to her, including the quarries and brickworks. According to her, making the longer trek to the Pigeon House with her companions was a ‘very special adventure’ because there was no track and they had to be careful not to get lost. She wrote that the: ‘clearing and ruins were held in awe and ... seemed to hold a mysterious atmosphere’. Another woman also remembers playing in a quarry and then going on up to the Pigeon House:

‘We loved exploring the disused quarry on Poets Road because the sedimentary shale and sandstone hid all sorts of fern-like “fenestella” fossils and we imagined dinosaurs, so our game was to hide from them amongst the boulders. Then it was up the slippery, rocky slope, through the gorse bushes until we reached our oasis – the green, grassy patch with its pond circled by rushes, sometimes a couple of cows and the little stone croft that we knew as the Pigeon House. After lots of running and hiding, we would find a grassy spot or flat rock, unwrap our sandwich and apple from its greaseproof paper and enjoy a break’.

She recalls that they were ‘possessive’ of the area and ‘wary’ of other children arriving although they sometimes joined in the games.

For the boys, the Pigeon House was a good place to play cricket or pretend golf because there were no windows to break. One man conducted a science experiment there that involved lighting a fire to create a high temperature. He thinks that they did it at the Pigeon House because of ‘something to do with lighting fires and nervous parents’.

A variety of economic activities, some of them minor in scale, took place on Knocklofty. One man, responding to Anna Reynolds’ interview with the ABC’s Ryk Goddard, recalled that as a child in the 1930s he went up there to collect gum leaf tips which he sold for a penny a bunch to go in vases. He and his friends spent the proceeds on cigarettes. Knocklofty was a hunting ground, with gunshots a familiar sound. One participant who visited in the 1950s and 1960s,

recalls the remains of an old farm on Knocklofty. In the 1950s, it was still used for grazing cows. Another participant who grew up in South Hobart, saw Italian prisoners of war working on the land there. Yet another participant used to run greyhounds belonging to Mick Muir that won a lot of races. According to a newsletter from Lawrenny Court Home, one of the greyhounds won a lot of money, making the bookies 'very unhappy'.

Twenty to forty-nine age group

Like the older age group, some of the participants aged between twenty and forty-nine, have visited Knocklofty since they were children and remember the freedom from adults that it gave them. One remembers playing all day, 'building huts, catching frogs, looking for snakes, enjoying independent imaginative time away from adults'. Another who has visited Knocklofty from the age of six wrote: 'I used to love being able to come up & play after school. Sit on the resorveur [sic] (forest rd entrance) without grownups & play until dark then walk home'. Yet another used to play in the Mt Stuart Quarry, pretending it was a planet in a Dr Who episode. This participant used to catch tadpoles and walk the 'blackberry trails'. One track was marked with old 'car rego number plates'. In an e-mail, dated 22 November 2015, Astrid Wright explained that these were old car number plates, made of aluminium so that they were light and tough. They were recalled in the 1950s. People from the Hobart Walking Club obtained quite a few and used them to mark the trail from the Bandicoot Corridor to the Mt Stuart lookout.

Other participants remember bringing their own children to Knocklofty to catch tadpoles, listen to the frogs, climb on the rocks, and have picnics. One participant, who has been visiting for seven months, already has memories of walking the children to school through the reserve and spotting wallabies, pademelons, kookaburras, and ravens. As the following comment suggests, Knocklofty is contributing to the independence of a new generation:

'Our children use the area as their extended backyard and it is lovely to watch their interactions with and use of the area as they grow older. They can now explore further and use the area independently. It is the site of many family walks, rides and picnics'.

Some participants mentioned their first associations with Knocklofty. One could not believe that 'such a park' was so close to the city. Another remembers being 'warmly welcomed' to the Friends of Knocklofty and later watching the Aurora Australis from Knocklofty the day before going overseas.

Others have been to Knocklofty to celebrate annual events, one for the 'great' view of the city on New Year's Eve. Another likes to spend the winter solstice there: 'we have walked here at night – winter solstice – and told spooky stories with friends. It is our winter solstice tradition. We bring lanterns, and we have the place all to ourselves!'

Young People and Children

The participant in the thirteen to nineteen age group did not record any memories. However, the children mentioned learning to ride a bike, 'going for a walk with Bushcare and learning about bats', and being involved in the Land to Sea team.

Do you have any favourite places on Knocklofty? Why are they special to you?

Fifty and over age group

Favourite tracks of the fifty and over age group included the Mt Stuart to Summit Loop, the Glover Track, the Zig Zag Track, the walk from Kirby Court to Forest Road, the track down to Poet's Road, and the Fiona Allan Track. One participant specified that she meant the Fiona Allan Track as it was when the Guides created it. She included as part of the track the Guides' old campfire site near the top of it and the memorial that they made to Fiona Allan. Other much loved spots were the various lookouts, especially the Glover one, the Reflecting Pond, the frog ponds, the cave area near the Sugarloaf, a number of seats, the Pigeon House, and some of the quarries, including the one below the Sugarloaf. A handful of favourite places were more idiosyncratic. They were 'a tree cave formed by a blown over tree pulling the earth up', 'in the middle, where you see no roads or people' and the 'faraway secret spots'.

Most people did not give their reasons. However, one participant liked the seat near the main frog pond where his wife used to sit while walking the dog, as well as the little seat above the Glover sign, and another on the track from Lenah Valley to the summit, 'all special because they bring vistas of now and memories of past Hobart'. Childhood memories led another participant to mention the frog ponds and quarry at the end of Knocklofty Terrace. Another liked the Zig Zag Track because it was calming, and yet another, the Glover Track because 'it has waterfalls after heavy rain and lovely sandstone cliffs'. One participant liked the Reflecting Pond because it 'always has water in it. On a hot day it's a cool place to stop for a while, a very peaceful place'.

Twenty to forty-nine age group

Views were important to the twenty to forty-nine age group. One participant wrote 'I love to go and look at the views. I used to love hanging out on the water tank [at the top of the track to Corby Avenue] that had the wooden platform'. Another liked the Pacific Vista Motel because of its views of Hobart. A number of people mentioned the lookout near the Forest Road car park, with one preferring it 'early in the morning and watching the sun come up over the city'.

Views were the main reason given for citing particular tracks. For instance, one participant preferred the Summit Loop because of 'the beautiful views and nice walk'. Another liked the back of the Mt Stuart Circuit where Mt Wellington and the gully below is visible. This participant also liked the Mt Stuart top level, again because of views of Mt Wellington. Another said: 'I enjoy running on all the trails but love the view over the city. I enjoy the smaller trails'. The Glover Track received a mention because 'I love landscape art'.

Other special sites were the frog ponds, the seat half way up the hill track near Mt Stuart, the Reflecting Pond, a 'side trail' to Poets Road where a rivulet flows, and 'the tall old gum trees with big open spaces in between'. One participant could not choose: 'The whole place is special. As Hobart grows the bush spaces close to the city will become more and more special & valuable'.

Young People and Children

The participant aged between thirteen and nineteen wrote: 'I often come to the lower half of Knocklofty but it's hard to pick a favourite spot'. One of the children under twelve liked 'the rocks at the lookout'. The other two, like the twenty to forty-nine age group, were keen on the views. One favoured the John Glover lookout because it is possible to see how Knocklofty has changed since Glover painted the picture of it. The other nominated a lookout (unspecified) and water tower because: 'It's a really short walk to it from where I live and the view is amazing'.

What changes, if any, would you like to see at Knocklofty Reserve?

Fifty and over age group

Many of the participants in the fifty and over age group did not want any changes, commenting 'Hmm can't think of any', 'Keep it natural bushland', and 'fine as it is!' The most requested change concerned access, with one asking for better maintenance at the Kirby Court entrance and another for a way into the road between the gates to the Fielding's property and where it joins Weeroona Avenue. Another request was for a level path from the Forest Road car park to the main lookout for frail walkers and wheelchairs. Some participants thought that tracks need clearer directions, especially at cross paths. A water tap or toilet was another popular request, with a suggestion that the toilet be composting. Others asked for more seating, specifically over the Bandicoot Corridor, near the Reflecting Pond, and 'a couple more special benches slightly off the track'. Although dog walking is a popular activity on Knocklofty, a few participants asked for more control because of the danger to wildlife, the bush, and children. Three participants asked for better bike paths and another three asked for more controls on cyclists. One suggested that they be limited to 'made' tracks because their tyres make ruts in the other tracks when it rains. Another thinks that the track to the summit is too narrow for bicycles and pedestrians. Yet another asked for speed limits.

A smaller number of people asked for improved or more walking tracks and that some old tracks be reopened. A couple would like the frog ponds to be 'uncluttered' and the grassy area around the Pigeon House enlarged, with one asking that it be 'cleared & restored to its status as an open "commons"'. Some called for more signage to provide information about plants, wildlife and history. One suggested a flora board identifying native plants and weeds so that walkers can pull the weeds out. Another participant suggested that the signage be unobtrusive, perhaps near the car park.

Finally, a number of suggestions only came up once. They included more weed removal, creating a wildlife sanctuary where visitors could watch the animals, a steel lookout tower at the top of Knocklofty, making the quarry near Fielding Drive into a botanic garden, putting white gravel on the stone edged path from behind the water tank to the frog ponds, no burn offs, more varied vegetation to attract a wider range of bird life, that the re-growth along the Salvator Rosa Glen Creek be linked to Knocklofty, and that a mural be painted on the water tank at the top of the track from Corby Avenue. One suggested a Knocklofty book that included its 'natural and historical background'.

Twenty to forty-nine age group

Like the fifty and over age group, these participants made more requests for no change than anything else. One participant wrote: ‘Please do not make it more “developed” – no more formed paths, definitely no play equipment, no BBQ etc., no lighting’. Some coupled this request with one to continue removing weeds. For instance, one wrote: ‘Nothing!! Maybe more removal of gorse – but it’s better than it used to be’. Another wrote: ‘Keep weeds out and maintain a beautiful natural bushland as it already is!’

Five people asked for more access, particularly to South Hobart and the Cascades Rivulet, to Giblin Street, Lenah Valley, to Wellington Park, and into the city. There were also five requests for more interpretation of the flora, fauna, and history. One wanted ‘more Knocklofty stories along paths’ while another pointed out that: ‘the area had extensive sandstone quarries and brick making and these are unknown to a lot of users’.

Two participants requested better signage about where dogs can be on and off-lead. One said ‘I’m a bit nervous about dogs with kids, so clear guidelines about where/when dogs can be off-lead’. Another suggested: ‘Clear, simple dog walk signs so everyone knows where dogs can & can’t go’. Another two participants asked for a toilet, with one suggesting it should be in the car park.

The once only requests were for continuing community activities, to rebuild the wooden platform on the water tank at the top of the path from Corby Avenue, more advertising of Knocklofty, a map of the tracks, ‘something wonderful done with the Mt Stuart Quarry’, and more planting.

Young People and Children

The participant in the thirteen to nineteen age group wrote: ‘It’s great! Just work to keep it as it is’. One of the children under twelve also suggested that no changes be made, ‘this place is perfect as it is’. The other two children requested protection of the vegetation and better tracks.

Age Range Not Given

One of the participants who did not provide an age range said that he hopes Knocklofty never changes. He expressed concern that land belonging to the Fielding family might be developed and suggested that, instead, the City of Hobart should acquire it.

Conclusion

There are some consistent themes in the answers to this survey. Most important is the appreciation of Knocklofty’s bush with its plants and wildlife and the activities associated with it such as walking, including with dogs, and cycling. The views were also frequently mentioned. Knocklofty’s accessibility and closeness to the city is another important attraction. Yet another was the sociability created by organised activities such as the Guides, Friends of Knocklofty, and Lansdowne Crescent School’s Land to Sea project.

Childhood memories also played a significant part, especially, but not only for, the older participants in the survey. The activities of children were a persistent thread throughout the survey, with some of the participants in the twenty to forty-nine age group commenting that they enjoy taking their children up to Knocklofty now or that it provides them with a place to play and explore independently. The popularity of the frog ponds as a favourite place across all age groups is further evidence of the significance of Knocklofty to children, especially since so many memories or current activities include collecting tadpoles. The enjoyment of Knocklofty that is evident in the comments by the young person and children suggests that, in the future, the reserve will still be an important place for children to play, learn new skills, explore, and gain some independence.

The affection for Knocklofty and the variety of reasons for it that comes through in these surveys supports Oreszczyn and Lane's argument that the significance of a cultural landscape lies as much in emotional attachments, including childhood memory, as it does in expert assessments of it. This endorses the City of Hobart's commitment to community consultation about Knocklofty.

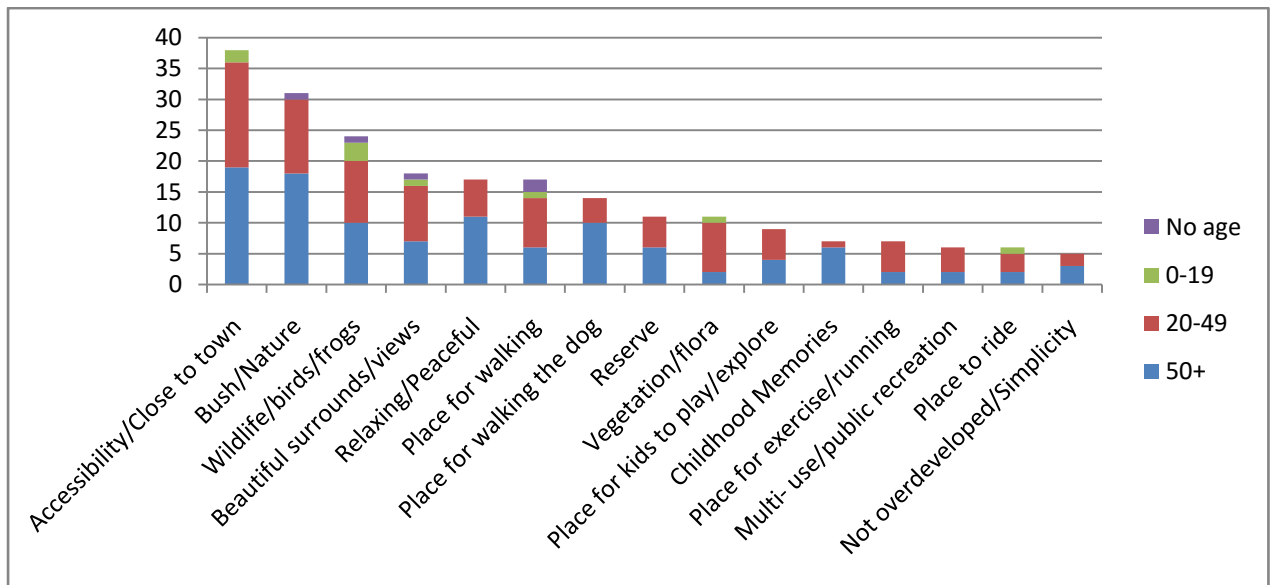
Contemporary Knocklofty is a cultural landscape created by the activities and memories of the community that uses it or has done so in the past. This perhaps explains why when participants in the survey were asked what changes they would like the most common response was none. There were a smaller number of requests for a variety of improvements to amenities or the restoration of places now gone or diminished, such as the Pigeon House clearing and some of the old tracks. In some instances, these reflect the different ways that the participants enjoy Knocklofty. This means that there are some potentially conflicting views about the form those changes should take.



Fig. 3 Toy gun belonging to Mr Hickson, used in his childhood for games on Knocklofty (photo: K. Evans 2015)

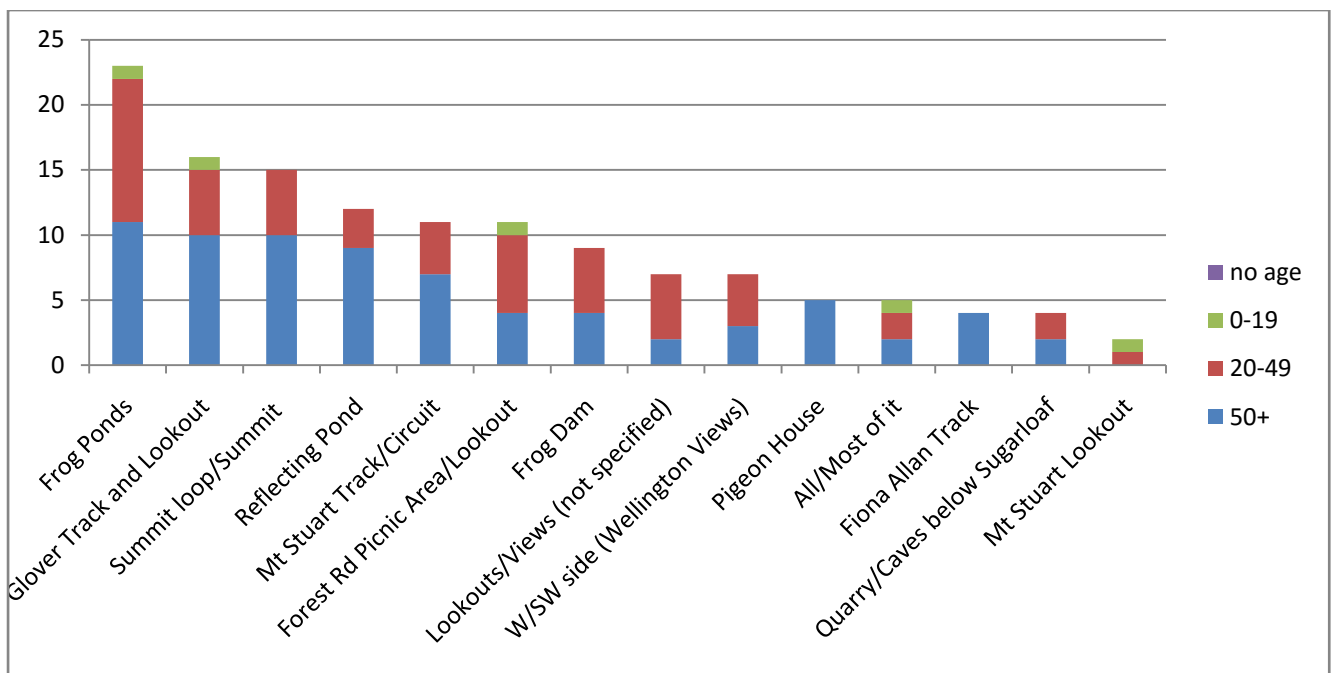
10. GRAPHS

Connections to Knocklofty were found to be personal and complex and often encompassed a range of different values. When asked the question ‘What is important to you about Knocklofty Reserve?’ most who responded listed a number of different values that were important to them. The most popular responses have been summarised in the following graph.



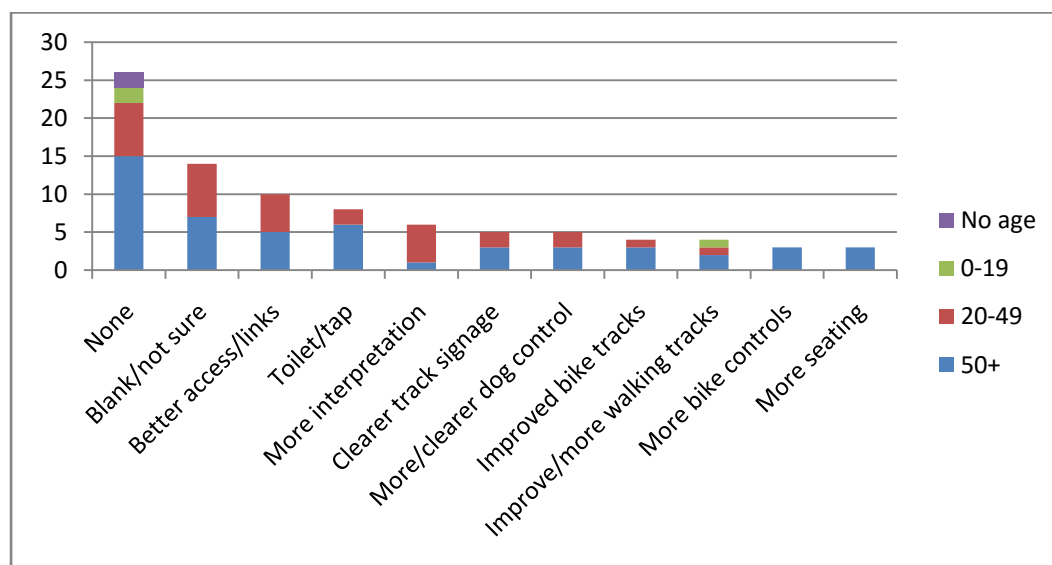
Graph 1: Most popular responses to the question ‘What is important to you about Knocklofty Reserve?’

In response to the question: ‘Do you have any favourite places on Knocklofty? Why are these special to you? Please mark them on the map overleaf’ some listed their favourite places, others marked them on the map or a combination. The following are the most popular responses taken from both the written answers and the maps.



Graph 2: Most popular responses to the question ‘Do you have a favourite place on Knocklofty Reserve?’ (taken from written answers and map)

When asked ‘What changes, if any, would you like to see at Knocklofty Reserve?’ some responded none, or were not sure or left the answer blank. Others gave a list of responses. The most popular responses are given in the graph below:



Graph 3: The most popular responses to the question ‘What, if any, changes would you like to see at Knocklofty Reserve?’

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Implications

The fact that a relatively high number of respondents did not want to see any changes at Knocklofty, or were unsure in answer to that question, is comforting that management to date has been highly successful. The involvement of community groups, such as Bushcare FOKL, Guides, Scouts and school groups, in the care and management of Knocklofty Reserve has provided an important community service and focal point over the years and many of the memories and stories across the age ranges in the survey results attest to this. Many of the survey participants thought that Knocklofty was a much more inviting place now due to those efforts.

A small number of the responses to the survey, however, demonstrate that the management of an area also has the potential to erode community values. Changes to the original Fiona Allan Track, for example, have upset some of those who were involved in its original construction, care, and maintenance. While the majority of respondents appreciated the changes made with weed removal, bush regeneration, track formation and maintenance, in a number of instances it was thought that tree planting in some places had had an adverse impact, such as impeding access to, and ambience of, the frog ponds, reducing the clearing near the old Pigeon House site which had special nostalgic and cultural value to some, and obscuring historic view lines, such as those that colonial artist John Glover painted.

The survey results also identified that the current bush setting at Knocklofty Reserve is highly valued. However, there were a number who, in answer to the question, ‘What, if any, changes

would you like to see at Knocklofty Reserve?’ answered: better access and links (10); the provision of a toilet and/or tap (8); more interpretation of the area’s flora, fauna, geology and history (6); and clearer track signage (5). Some respondents pointed out perceived threats to Knocklofty’s values from development/activity on neighbouring private property. It is envisaged that achieving a balance between retaining significant bush qualities and providing appropriate infrastructure for the level of usage and controls on development will be ongoing management issues.

Knocklofty Reserve is valued by many users as a dog exercise and bike riding area, however, the multi-use nature of the reserve caused some users to call for more controls or clearer directions regarding dogs and bikes in the reserve. Others showed concern about the potential effect of dogs on the wildlife.

A number of respondents to the survey requested more interpretation of the reserve’s significant values. The popularity of the existing John Glover trail highlights the fact that once these values are interpreted they are more likely to be valued by the community. The children surveyed, most of whom had been involved in the Lansdowne Primary School’s Land to Sea program, highlighted that the reserve’s history was important to them, again demonstrating that once that knowledge is gained, it is more likely to be valued. Interpretation and education can help protect significant values and assets for the future.

Recommendations

The ‘Understanding the Contemporary Cultural Values of Knocklofty Reserve’ project has highlighted the need for further research into, and management of, the reserve’s assets to best understand, conserve and interpret significant cultural values (historic and contemporary). These are:

Children and Teens’ Contemporary Cultural Value Study

Given the limitation of this study in only receiving a small number of survey responses from children and teenagers (aged 0-19) further research might focus specifically on this age group to determine their contemporary cultural values of Knocklofty. This might be done through targeting schools (primary, high and colleges) in the area or through Bushcare’s holiday program, or by considering ways that this response could be improved at future Knocklofty Open Days.

Historic Site Research and Archaeological Survey

To date there has been no comprehensive historical research study and archaeological survey of the historic cultural heritage values of the reserve. Such a study would identify those sites, features, landscapes and views of historic cultural significance, identify any risks/threats and prescribe management priorities and procedures, and also guide an interpretation strategy. In this

way Knocklofty's significant cultural heritage values could be protected, maintained and conserved for future generations, and interpreted to the public.

Oral history Programme

An oral history programme of recorded interviews with a number of people identified through the survey and other means, as having significant historical connections with Knocklofty would capture many of the Knocklofty stories and memories for future generations. These could be deposited at the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office. The recordings could form the basis of further interpretation of the reserve by the City of Hobart, FOKL or by the Lansdowne Primary School's Land to Sea program. Podcasts might be an interesting use of the recorded material.

Management Plan

An overall management plan for Knocklofty Reserve will assist to balance the cultural and natural values of the reserve and give clear direction to the extent that future development may or may not be appropriate, as well as identify management strategies to deal with the issues relating to multiple user groups. A consultative approach that takes into consideration the values of all community users is suggested.

Interpretation/Education Plan

'Interpretation is a means of communicating ideas and feelings which help people enrich their understanding and appreciation of their world, and their role in it.' (Interpretation Australia Association)

Interpretation can strengthen and sustain the relationships between the community and its heritage and may provide social and economic benefits for the community (NSW Heritage Office 2005). While the significance of some heritage items is easy to understand, others may be more difficult and require interpretation.

It is recommended that an interpretation plan that encompasses key features and stories relating to Knocklofty's Aboriginal, historic, contemporary cultural, geological and natural values be developed. Such a plan would also identify educational opportunities for significant values to be promoted to local schools and the general community through Bushcare activities and tours. Given the risk of 'overdeveloping' the reserve and detracting from the bushland setting that is highly valued by the community, options for reducing the visual impact of signage, but delivering high quality interpretation would need to be considered. These may, for example, include developing a small number of interpretation 'nodes' at the main car park entry sites and/or other key sites in the reserve; the development of self-guided trails requiring minimal on-site signage (for example apps, QR codes, brochures); events, tours and activities and/or designing interpretative signage that is unobtrusive (such as plaques that are situated low to the ground, possibly utilising some of the stone available in the reserve). Key themes/ features/sites identified during this study as having historic and/or contemporary cultural value that may be interpreted include:

Knocklofty as a place of early settlement

- Old house and hut sites, including the Pigeon House
- Remnant clearings/exotic plantings
- Old access roads

Knocklofty as a place for resources –timber, stone, bricks, sand, hunting, grazing, water supply

- historic quarries
- old brick works site
- remnant pasture/clearings
- old access tracks
- old water infrastructure/reservoir sites

Knocklofty as a childhood playground/ family recreation area for neighbouring suburbs– exploring, playing, collecting fossils, tadpoles, observing wildlife, sports, picnics, lighting fires and cooking, making cubbies, bushfires

- The Pigeon House and clearing
- Frog ponds
- Cubbies
- Caves, quarries, old brickworks site
- Sugarloaf

Knocklofty as place for recreation – grey hound training, dog walking, bushwalking, orienteering, nature study, exploring, bike riding, painting/art etc

- Tracks
- Summit
- Seats/Lookouts
- Glover views

Knocklofty as a place for conservation by community groups– schools, FOKL, Guides, Scouts etc

- Tracks
- Fiona Allan Track and memorial
- Sites of restoration of habitat eg, frog ponds

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Pamphlets/Newspapers

'Bushcare: Hobart's Bushland Reserves' by Hobart City Council

'Bringing the Frogs back to Knocklofty' by the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group

Mercury, 1 February 2003

Mount Stuart News, December 2006

Websites

Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare group: <http://www.friendsofknocklofty.org/>

Land to Sea (Lansdowne Primary School): <http://www.landtosea.net.au/>

Appendix A :Sample survey

Knocklofty Reserve

‘understanding contemporary cultural values’

The City of Hobart would like to find out more about community connections with Knocklofty Reserve, including its special features or places and any stories or memories that are associated with it. This short survey will help to identify these values and connections and be used to assist in the reserve’s future management. It would be appreciated if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Please return the completed survey at the Knocklofty Reserve Open Day on 15 November or to Caroline Evans, 10 Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart by 16 November 2015.

How long have you been visiting Knocklofty?

How has Knocklofty Reserve changed in the time that you have been visiting it?

What is important to you about Knocklofty Reserve?

What memories or stories do you have about Knocklofty?

Please Turn Over

Do you have any favourite places on Knocklofty? Why are these special to you? Please mark them on the map overleaf.

What changes, if any, would you like to see at Knocklofty Reserve?

Optional information

What is your age range? Please tick.

0-12 ☐

13-19 ☐

20-49 ☐

50+ ☐

Postcode:

Name and Contact details:

Are you willing to take part in a follow up interview?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If so, please provide your name and contact details above.

Please Turn Over

