

PROPOSED LOCAL HERITAGE PLACE

Oakman's Garden (former), 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill (LOT PLAN: 136_S3141)



SUMMARY

In the 1970s, noted horticulturalist and landscape architect, Harry Oakman, established a garden at his house at 95 Priors Pocket Road in Moggill. The garden is laid out using the principles espoused by Oakman in his various publications and includes Oakman's signature subtropical plantings of colourful flowering plants, such as camellias and native tree species. As Parks Superintendent and the Manager of Brisbane City Council's Parks Department, Oakman made a significant contribution to the beautification of Brisbane between 1947 and 1963, including notable works on the Mt Coot-tha lookout, the redesign of Newstead Park, and the renovation of the City Botanic Gardens. His most important work, *Tropical and Subtropical Gardening in Queensland* (1975), was published while living in Moggill.

HISTORY

A history of Moggill

Moggill is an outer suburb located approximately 22 kilometres from central Brisbane. The name for the suburb derives from the nearby Moggill Creek. The Queensland Place Names Board established the current suburb of Moggill on 11 August 1975, and its boundary was altered in 2000.¹ Before 1975, Moggill included the modern suburbs of Bellbowrie and Anstead, established in 1972 and 1975.

From the mid-19th Century onwards, critical industries in the Moggill area included farming, mining, quarrying and timber production. As early as 1823, Lieutenant John Oxley recognised the area's agricultural potential. Job Twine established one of the first farms in the area. Twine arrived in Moreton Bay in 1849 with his family on one of Reverend Lang's immigrant ships, the *Lima*. Farming continued to be important after much of the land in Moggill was cleared through logging. Dairy farms were established in the Moggill district throughout the late-19th Century, and farmers planted crops such as arrowroot, potatoes, and corn to provide extra income for dairy farmers. Farmers also established livestock and poultry farms in the area. Notably, pineapple farms were an eye-catching feature of the Moggill landscape up until the 1990s.

By 1850, various extractive industries began to emerge when John Williams began mining the banks of the Brisbane River at Moggill for coal, though this mine was closed by the 1860s. However, coal mining resumed in the 1920s, when Riverside Collieries Proprietary Ltd recommenced mining at Moggill. Coal mining continued in the area up until the 1960s. The former Sugars' Quarry, established in the 1870s and formerly in Moggill but now located in the suburb of Anstead, is remnant evidence of the extractive industries that were important to the local area. Other important industries in the area included timber felling, driven by increased land sales in the Brisbane area and the associated construction of houses.

As the population gradually increased in Moggill, the need for certain services arose. By 1866 the district had a post office, a school, and a cemetery. Essential infrastructure in the area included the Moggill ferry, which has provided an essential public transport service connecting the Brisbane side of the Brisbane River to the Ipswich side since the 1870s. While the site of ferry operation has shifted over time, and a connecting bridge has been built over the Brisbane River to the Ipswich side further to the west, the Moggill ferry remains an extant example of late-19th Century public transportation. The ferry is an essential representation of early Brisbane public transport. Another vital piece of Brisbane's infrastructure built in the area is the pipeline along the Mount Crosby Road that carries water from the nearby Mount Crosby Reservoir into Brisbane.

In 1879, with the passing of *The Divisional Boards Act*, Moggill formed part of the Toowong Division. Divisional Boards were established to provide local government for portions of Queensland that lay outside the boundaries of municipalities, such as Brisbane. However, in 1880, Moggill became part of the Indooroopilly Division when the latter was split from the Toowong Division. In 1903, the Indooroopilly Division became a Shire, and the name changed to Moggill Shire in 1917. Finally, in 1925, Moggill became part of the newly created Great Brisbane City Council.

The life and work of Harry Oakman

Between 1946 and 1963, Harry Oakman, born Henri Vereecke in Belgium in 1906, served as Brisbane City Council's Parks Superintendent and later Manager, Department of Parks. His passion for lush tropical foliage and flowering plants developed into the distinctive subtropical style evident

¹ ['Moggill – suburb in City of Brisbane \(entry 41507\).'](#) *Queensland Place Names*.

in many Brisbane parks and streetscapes. In 1963, Oakman became Canberra's Chief Landscape Architect and Director of the Landscape Division of the National Capital Development Commission.

After Germany invaded Belgium in 1914, at the age of eight, Oakman escaped to the United Kingdom with his father, Joseph. In 1916, his father enlisted in the British Army as a Private in the Army Service Corps and then transferred to the Belgian Army in 1917, in which he served until 1919.² While his father served in the military, Oakman attended Twickenham Boys Boarding School, where he was the victim of bullying and 'racial taunts'.³ After the First World War, Oakman emigrated to Australia with his father, arriving in 1921.⁴ His father was granted his certificate of naturalisation in August 1922.⁵ In the 1920s, the family name was anglicised to Oakman; Vereecke means 'of the oak'.⁶

In the 1920s and 1930s, Oakman began his long career as a horticulturalist and landscape architect in New South Wales. In the 1920s, Oakman first undertook agricultural training at the Scheyville Training Farm in the Sydney hinterland and then attended the Wagga Wagga Experimental Farm. He also attended the Brunet Flower Nursery in Pennant Hills, which gave him essential 'hands-on' horticultural experience.⁷ Then, in 1927, he began working for Kuringai Municipal Council, initially as a gardener and then as a foreman. While working for Kuringai Municipal Council, Oakman illustrated his commitment to lifelong learning when he attended Sydney Technical College in Ultimo between 1939 and 1940. Here he attended the first horticultural course 'designed specifically for young people working in the Parks and Gardens Departments in the various municipalities in the region'.⁸

In 1940, Oakman took up the role of Head Gardner for the Greater Newcastle City Council. While working for Greater Newcastle City Council, Oakman oversaw the beautification of Newcastle.⁹ By 1946, Oakman managed a staff of 62 people and received an annual salary of £440 per annum.¹⁰ He also oversaw the maintenance of eight playing ovals, 98 parks and 52 street gardens with an annual budget of £27,000.¹¹

Oakman came to Brisbane in late-1946 as Parks Superintendent. Oakman's appointment stemmed from the Lord Mayor, John Chandler's desire 'to make Brisbane a city of parks, boulevards, and avenues'.¹² For Chandler, the desire to beautify Brisbane was an essential element of his plans for the City after the Second World War. On being appointed to the position of Parks Superintendent, Oakman was described as 'the outstanding applicant' based on his previous experience in New South Wales, especially in Newcastle.¹³ While working in Brisbane, Oakman, and his wife May, whom he married in 1938, lived in the suburb of Kenmore. This house has since been demolished

² The National Archives, Kew, London, WO 372/20/144580, Medal Card for Private Octave Vereecke, Army Service Corps; National Archives of Australia, A1, 1927/11365, Memorandum on Octave Joseph Vereecke by the Home and Territories Department, 30 May 1922.

³ Ross McKinnon, Malcolm Bunzli, and Ray Steward, 'Harry Oakman (1906–2002): A Retrospective of his Life and Work,' *Queensland Review* 10, no. 2 (2003), p. 65.

⁴ NAA, A1, 1927/11365, Statutory Declaration by Octave Joseph Vereecke in Support of Application for Certificate of Naturalization, 24 February 1922.

⁵ 'Certificates of Naturalization,' *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 28 September 1922, p. 1623.

⁶ McKinnon *et al*, 'Harry Oakman,' p. 65.

⁷ McKinnon *et al*, 'Harry Oakman,' p. 65.

⁸ McKinnon *et al*, 'Harry Oakman,' p. 66.

⁹ McKinnon *et al*, 'Harry Oakman,' p. 66.

¹⁰ Brisbane City Archives (BCA), Report of the E&C Committee, recorded in the Minutes of the 1390th Meeting of Brisbane City Council, 1 October 1946, p. 183.

¹¹ BCA, Report of the E&C Committee, recorded in the Minutes of the 1390th Meeting of Brisbane City Council, 1 October 1946, p. 183.

¹² John Cole, *Shaping a City: Greater Brisbane, 1925-1985* (Eagle Farm, QLD: William Brooks, 1984), p. 114.

¹³ BCA, Report of the E&C Committee, recorded in the Minutes of the 1390th Meeting of Brisbane City Council, 1 October 1946, p. 183.

Oakman inherited parks degraded from years of military occupation by American and Australian forces during the Second World War. He sought to create a city of floral display parks, flowering street trees, lawn cemeteries, new parks and sports fields on former wasteland. By 1950, Oakman's impact was noticeable. The *Brisbane Telegraph* noted that Brisbane's parks were developing 'real character' under his management and that citizens could be 'proud' of the city.¹⁴ During his time with Brisbane City Council, Oakman oversaw a growth in park acreage from 7,786 acres in 1947 to 8,754 acres in 1963.¹⁵ He also oversaw the construction of 63 new sports fields, the redesign of 37 parks, the establishment of a new nursery at the Botanic Gardens, and the planting of more than 85,000 trees in Brisbane.¹⁶ Moreover, some of those employed by Oakman would take on similar significant roles around Australia.¹⁷ Some of Oakman's most notable successes in Brisbane were the Mt Coot-tha lookout, the redesign of Newstead Park and his involvement in the renovation of the City Botanic Gardens.¹⁸ As a committed pacifist, Oakman sought to remove many war trophies from Brisbane's public spaces, including, for example, the removal of six guns to Gibson Island in 1954.¹⁹ However, for several reasons, including removal costs, many war trophies remained in Brisbane's parks and for Oakman they remained 'blights on the city's landscape.'²⁰

While Oakman rarely spoke about what influenced his various designs, smaller projects, such as recreation areas, were designed in a 'sub-Edwardian formalist mode.'²¹ In contrast, the English landscape movement invariably influenced his larger park designs.²² Importantly, Oakman was able to adjust his designs based on their context. For example, while his smaller designs were invariably not modern, his larger parks consistently were because Oakman was 'concerned to make Brisbane modern.'²³ Despite a reluctance to 'overtly' cite influences, Oakman's work was influenced by the likes of the Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx.²⁴ Both Oakman and Marx's work made significant use of colour and responded to the climatic conditions of the countries in which they worked.²⁵

As early as the 1950s, Oakman began espousing design principles for residential gardens. In his 1958 book *Gardens for Queensland*, Oakman outlined what he viewed as the key principles that underlined the effective design of gardens in response to Queensland's subtropical climate. These principles included unity, mass and form, scale, colour, texture, and character.²⁶ Oakman took a pragmatic approach to garden design, writing that it 'should not be approached from the angle of pure design.'²⁷ Instead, he suggested that gardens needed to be designed 'in the spirit of unifying a number of essential requirements which must be fitted into a harmonious whole.'²⁸ Importantly, in outlining his principles for design, Oakman started with the claim that '[a]ll the practical requirements of a *house and garden* must be *combined* into a design which is both pleasing and workable' (emphasis added). Moreover, in discussing the principle of unity, Oakman stressed that '[a]ll parts of the design must be related to one another and not just be scattered elements, distinct one from the

¹⁴ R.A. Phillips, 'Civic Week puts accent on good citizenship,' *Brisbane Telegraph*, 4 September 1950, p. 5.

¹⁵ BCA, *Ninth Volume of the Brisbane Statistics, 1947* (Brisbane, QLD: Government Printer, 1948), p. 55; BCA, *Brisbane Statistics – Volume Twenty-Two (1962-63 and 1963-64)* (Brisbane: Watson Ferguson and Co., 1965), p. 146.

¹⁶ Fryer Library, University of Queensland, Personal Papers of Harry Oakman, Box 19, Folder 5, Brisbane City Council, List of Capital Works by Harry Oakman, 1947 to 1963.

¹⁷ Andrew Saniga, *Making Landscape Architecture in Australia* (Sydney, NSW: UNSW Press, 2012), pp. 100-1.

¹⁸ McKinnon et al, 'Harry Oakman,' p. 67.

¹⁹ Mark Clayton, 'Seeds of Discontent,' *Queensland History Journal* 23, no. 9 (2018), pp. 572.

²⁰ Clayton, 'Seeds of Discontent,' p. 574.

²¹ Rod Barnett and Jacqueline Margetts, *The Modern Landscapes of Ted Smyth: Landscape Modernism in the Asia-Pacific* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2017), p. 144.

²² Andrew Saniga, 'Layered Landscapes: Links between Brazil and Australia after the Second World War,' *Fabrications* 31, no. 1 (2021), p. 90; Barnett and Margetts, *The Modern Landscapes of Ted Smyth*, p. 144.

²³ Barnett and Margetts, *The Modern Landscapes of Ted Smyth*, p. 144.

²⁴ Saniga, 'Layered Landscapes,' pp. 90-3.

²⁵ Saniga, 'Layered Landscapes,' pp. 90-3.

²⁶ Harry Oakman, *Gardening in Queensland* (Brisbane, QLD: Jacaranda Press, 1958), pp. 21-3.

²⁷ Oakman, *Gardening in Queensland*, p. 13.

²⁸ Oakman, *Gardening in Queensland*, p. 13.

other.²⁹ These ideas remained consistent throughout Oakman's career. They were repeated and updated in what is widely considered his most significant work, *Tropical and Subtropical Gardening in Queensland* (1975), and its subsequent editions.³⁰

As Parks Superintendent, Oakman took an active role in promoting horticulture in Brisbane. For example, Oakman regularly oversaw Brisbane City Council's horticultural displays at the Royal Exhibition and ceremonial events, such as the Royal Ball, in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Brisbane in 1954.³¹ Additionally, towards the end of his time at Council, Oakman's prominent position and reputation led to him being asked for advice outside of the confines of Council. For example, in 1959, the Premier of Queensland, Frank Nicklin, wrote to Oakman to seek his opinion on the most appropriate flower to use as the 'State's floral emblem.'³² In response, Oakman recommended the Cooktown Orchid, Red Silky Oak, or the Umbrella Tree.³³ Finally, even though Oakman left Brisbane City Council in 1963, his expertise was called on in 1970 to write a draft report for the Lord Mayor, Clem Jones, on landscape policies in Brisbane.³⁴ Key amongst Oakman's recommendation was that Brisbane City Council had a landscape architect as a permanent staff member.³⁵

In 1963, Oakman was appointed as the Chief Landscape Architect and Director of the newly established Landscape Division of the National Capital Development Commission in Canberra.³⁶ Thomas Reginald Groom, who served as Lord Mayor of Brisbane between 1955 and 1961, highly recommended Oakman to the National Capital Development Commission. Because of Oakman's 'ability, tenacity, and dedication,' Groom noted that 'he ha[d] transformed the greater Brisbane area and has laid sound foundations for its future park and recreation area development.'³⁷ Groom also noted that Oakman had done all of this work in a period when 'inadequate funds' were available for this task making it 'a remarkable achievement to his credit.'³⁸ In illustrating Oakman's significance to the beautification of Brisbane, these sentiments were echoed by Brisbane City Council when the Lord Mayor, Jones, recorded in December 1963 that 'it was with considerable regret' that Oakman was leaving Brisbane for Canberra.³⁹ In 1964, 'Toowong Sportsfield' on the corner of Moggill Road and Union Street was renamed Oakman Park to recognise the 'sterling work' undertaken by Oakman while working for Council.⁴⁰ However, it took until 1970 for Oakman to be informed of this accolade.⁴¹

Established in 1957 by the *National Capital Development Commission Act*, the National Capital Development Commission was created to plan, develop, and construct the 'City of Canberra as the

²⁹ Oakman, *Gardening in Queensland*, p. 21.

³⁰ Harry Oakman, *Tropical and Subtropical Gardening* (Brisbane, QLD: Jacaranda Press, 1975), pp. 10-3; Harry Oakman, *Tropical and Subtropical Gardening*, second edition (Brisbane, QLD: Jacaranda Press, 1981), pp. 23-8.

³¹ 'Rocks Foil for Beauty,' *Brisbane Telegraph*, 7 August 1950, p. 10; 'People we met in the Crowd Yesterday,' *The Courier-Mail*, 14 August 1952, p. 7; 'On View To-Day and To-Morrow,' *The Courier-Mail*, 12 March 1954, p. 7.

³² Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Folder 7, Premier of Queensland to the Manager, Department of Parks, Brisbane City Council, 16 January 1959.

³³ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Folder 7, Manager, Department of Parks, Brisbane City Council to the Premier of Queensland, 20 January 1959.

³⁴ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Folder 7, Town Clerk, Brisbane City Council to Harry Oakman, 9 September 1970.

³⁵ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 4, Folder 12, Landscape Policies by Harry Oakman, 1 September 1970, p. 3.

³⁶ Dianne Firth, 'Behind the Landscape of Lake Burley Griffin: Landscape, water, politics and the national capital, 1899-1964' (PhD Thesis, The Australian National University, 2000), p. 156; 'High ACT Post for Brisbane Man,' *The Canberra Times*, 20 July 1963, p. 3.

³⁷ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 17, Folder 5, Thomas Reginald Groom to the Secretary, National Capital Development Commission, 23 April 1963.

³⁸ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 17, Folder 5, Thomas Reginald Groom to the Secretary, National Capital Development Commission, 23 April 1963.

³⁹ BCA, Minutes of the 2536th Meeting of BCC, 10 December 1963, p. 548

⁴⁰ BCA, E&C Report presented to the 2545th Meeting of BCC, 26 May 1964.

⁴¹ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Folder 7, Town Clerk, Brisbane City Council to Harry Oakman, 31 August 1970.

National Capital of the Commonwealth.⁴² Walter Burley Griffin did the original layout and planning of Canberra. However, after his dismissal from his role in 1920, the development of Canberra went through three major phases that ultimately, by the 1950s, had created perhaps 'one of the best experimental towns in the world,' but not a city worthy of being Australia's capital.⁴³ During his nine years in Canberra, Oakman significantly contributed to the development of Canberra by preparing landscape designs that are now integral to the character and beauty of the capital.⁴⁴ However, his most notable contribution was his involvement in creating Commonwealth Park on the north side of Lake Burley Griffin.⁴⁵

Oakman, a talented artist and musician, was an active member of horticulture and landscape architecture professions. In 1947, Oakman became a member of the British Institute of Landscape Architects, and in the 1960s, he was an early member of the newly created Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture.⁴⁶ In becoming a member of the British Institute of Landscape Architects, Oakman was the 'first [registered] landscape architect employed by any government in Queensland.'⁴⁷ Most significantly, Oakman contributed to the horticultural and landscape architecture professions by publishing eight books on the subject during his lifetime. *Gardening in Queensland* (1958) was written while working for Brisbane City Council, while several more volumes were written while working in Canberra. More was written during his time in retirement. Oakman also regularly contributed to newspapers, primarily reviewing horticulture and landscape architecture books.⁴⁸

The development of the garden at 95 Priors Pocket Road

When Oakman retired in 1972, he and his wife returned to live on an 11-acre plot of land in Priors Pocket, a neighbourhood of Moggill. Oakman had bought this land in 1963, just as they moved to Canberra.⁴⁹ On returning to Brisbane in 1972, Oakman had a single-storey house designed and built on this land by Griffin and Knowlman, an architectural and building company that primarily worked in Kenmore and surrounding suburbs, particularly on riverfront properties. The house cost around \$30,000 to construct. Oakman lived at 95 Priors Pocket Road until he died in 2002.

At 95 Priors Pocket Road, Oakman designed and planted a 'magnificent' one-acre garden that included his signature subtropical plantings, including colourful flowering plants, such as camellias, and native tree species.⁵⁰ The garden is an uncommon example of Oakman's residential landscape architecture work from 1955 to 1985.⁵¹ In designing the garden, Oakman applied design principles used throughout his career, such as unity, colour and texture. The relationship between elements of the site highlights the principle of unity. For example, the low brick planter boxes adjacent to the house curve away from the north face of the house, allowing the home and garden to visually 'converge.'⁵² Similarly, the garden illustrated the principles of colour and texture through the variety of subtropical plantings used.⁵³ For Oakman, colour was the 'most important [element] in a garden

⁴² Nicholas Brown, *A History of Canberra* (Melbourne, VIC: Cambridge University Press, 2014), p. 146.

⁴³ Brown, *A History of Canberra*, p. 145.

⁴⁴ Norman Ajornensen, 'Exile camp fights on to be a 'worthy capital,' *The Canberra Times*, 18 June 1995, p. 18.

⁴⁵ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Margaret Hendry, 'Harry Oakman: 90 Years of Achievement.'

⁴⁶ Saniga, *Making Landscape Architecture in Australia*, p. 100.

⁴⁷ Jeannie Sim, 'Tropicalia: Gardens with Tropical Attitude,' *Queensland Review* 10, no. 2 (2003), p. 13.

⁴⁸ 'Gardening history,' *The Canberra Times*, 1 August 1970, p. 12; Harry Oakman, 'The Time to Plant,' *The Canberra Times*, 29 August 1970, p. 13; Harry Oakman, 'Plants from the Orient,' *The Canberra Times*, 19 September 1970, p. 12; Harry Oakman, 'Fun in the Garden,' *The Canberra Times*, 21 November 1970, p. 12.

⁴⁹ 'NCDC moves,' *The Canberra Times*, 21 April 1972, p. 3; 'Director retires,' *The Canberra Times*, 2 June 1972, p. 9.

⁵⁰ McKinnon *et al*, 'Harry Oakman,' p. 68.

⁵¹ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Folder 5, List of Independent Landscape Projects, 1955-1985, N.D.

⁵² Oakman, *Gardening in Queensland*, p. 21.

⁵³ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Item 17, Photographic Album of Harry Oakman's House and Garden at 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill, N.D.

layout.⁵⁴ These plantings remained colourful despite little watering.⁵⁵ Oakman was ‘the original water wise gardener.’⁵⁶ He was adamant that gardens needed little watering in the Queensland climate and that any damage caused by drought could be rectified by ‘flooding rains.’⁵⁷ In his garden, Oakman experimented with various plantings as he continued researching during his retirement years.⁵⁸ Oakman had a history of using his garden to experiment with new plantings. For example, when he left Newcastle City Council in 1946 to come to Brisbane, it was recorded that his home in Kotara contained ‘more than 500 varieties of trees and shrubs.’⁵⁹

Several professional bodies recognised Oakman’s ‘influential contributions’ after he retired.⁶⁰ In 1972, he was made a Fellow of the British Institute of Landscape Architects. In 1973, Oakman was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.⁶¹ In addition, the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation awarded Oakman with the Australia Award in park administration in the same year.⁶² Subsequently, in recognition of his contribution to his profession, the Queensland Branch of the Australian Institute for Landscape Architects established the Harry Oakman Tribute Award. Awarded biannually, the award is designed to recognise the work of ‘Queensland landscape architects who makes a significant contribution to the outdoor environment.’⁶³ More recently, in Roma Street Parkland, a statue called ‘Oakman’s Opus 2001’ was commissioned as a ‘tribute’ to Oakman’s ‘vision’ for Brisbane.⁶⁴ In 2002, on Arbor Day, the then Councillor for Toowong, Judy Magub, unveiled a memorial tree in Oakman Park to commemorate Oakman’s contribution to Brisbane.⁶⁵ Oakman Lagoon in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens is also named after his contribution to Brisbane’s beautification.

While residing at 95 Priors Pocket Road, Oakman also continued to publish prodigiously about horticulture and landscape architecture. While living in Moggill, Oakman published his most significant work, *Tropical and Subtropical Gardening in Queensland* (1975). This book, and its subsequent editions, is considered the ‘bible for all gardeners in warm climates.’⁶⁶ Moreover, the launch of this book took place at Oakman’s house and garden in Moggill.⁶⁷ Other books written by Oakman while living in Moggill included amongst others: *Shrubs for Tropical and Sub-Tropical Gardens* (1990) and *Harry Oakman’s What Flowers When* (1995). Oakman also continued to lecture to interested parties. For example, in late-1979, Oakman formed part of a panel discussion on landscape architecture organised by the Queensland Branch of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.⁶⁸ He presented alongside Malcolm Bunzli, George Trapnell and George Williams. As well as writing and lecturing, Oakman continued to undertake occasional commissions for various customers, including the Government of Fiji, where, in 1977, he helped develop a botanical garden in Lautoka.⁶⁹

⁵⁴ Oakman, *Gardening in Queensland*, p. 22.

⁵⁵ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 68.

⁵⁶ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 68.

⁵⁷ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 68.

⁵⁸ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Item 17, Photographic Album of Harry Oakman’s House and Garden at 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill, N.D.

⁵⁹ ‘Gardener’s Garden,’ *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners’ Advocate*, 11 October 1946, p. 2.

⁶⁰ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 69.

⁶¹ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 69.

⁶² McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 69.

⁶³ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 69.

⁶⁴ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 69.

⁶⁵ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 69.

⁶⁶ McKinnon *et al*, ‘Harry Oakman,’ p. 67.

⁶⁷ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 17, Folder 6, John Collins, Managing Director of Jacaranda Press to Harry Oakman, 18 November 1975.

⁶⁸ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 17, Folder 7, ‘Occasional Paper No. 1 – An Evening with Harry Oakman, Malcolm Bunzli, George Trapnell and George Williams’ (Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, 16 October 1979).

⁶⁹ ‘Architect for Fiji gardens,’ *The Canberra Times*, 12 October 1977, p. 13.

DESCRIPTION

The former Oakman's Garden located on a residential property at 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill, is important as a garden including planting by Harry Oakman. Positioned on a large block that slopes to the southwest towards the Brisbane River, glimpses of views across the river can be seen from the road frontage. The house is surrounded by extensive mature vegetation, with elements of this vegetation planted by Henry Oakman in his signature sub-tropical style.

General description

The gardens adjacent to the house are extensively landscaped and planted, particularly with palms and other native species. The main curvilinear driveway into the property diverges around a central planted garden vegetated by colourful flowering plants, native mature trees and ground cover plants. Subtropical planting also features along the fence facing onto Priors Pocket Road.

Open grassy areas are in the east corner of the site, and across most of the southwest half of the site, on the slope towards the Brisbane River. Extensive mature native trees are planted in a central band from the northwest to southeast edge of the site, with vegetation less dense in the north corner. A dirt roadway winds through the open areas in the southern half of the site, and mature trees line the bank of the river.

An outdoor area is located at the house's rear, with an inground pool set within this area. Low brick planter boxes, planted currently with low shrubs, are placed adjacent to the exterior wall on the front elevation, shown in historical photographs to have been installed by Oakman.⁷⁰ A cleared area at the front of the house serves as a car park.

The house at Oakman's Garden is a single-storeyed late-20th Century property constructed primarily of brick. The house is roughly rectangular in plan, with a small extension to the rear elevation and a box gable roof. The house has a painted tiled roof, with eaves that extend over the front and rear elevations to provide shelter and shade. A small brick chimney stack extends from the centre of the roof. External walls were originally faced brick and are now rendered.

The property features a large metal shed and a smaller metal shelter erected on the site after Oakman's death in 2002. Separated from Priors Pocket Road by a wide verge a timber and wire fence bound the property. Two steel gates provide entry points to the site: the main entrance at the north-west of the house, and a minor entrance directly to the north. Dirt paths provide driveways to the house and the large shed, respectively. Historical photographs indicate that the main driveway and entrance layout has been retained from Harry Oakman's original layout for the property.⁷¹

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Features of cultural heritage significance include:

- Original Oakman plantings dated to before 2002
- The original layout of the site and the arrangement of landscaping, including open grassed areas, landscaped plantings, formal curvilinear driveway, and access tracks
- The original location and orientation of the house
- Original low-brick planter boxes and raised garden beds
- Cleared area/driveway

⁷⁰ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Item 17, Photographic Album of Harry Oakman's House and Garden at 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill, N.D.

⁷¹ Fryer Library, Oakman Papers, Box 19, Item 17, Photographic Album of Harry Oakman's House and Garden at 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill, N.D.

Non-Significant Elements

Non-significant features include:

- House (structure)
- Non-original sheds
- Non-original plantings
- Swimming pool
- Non-original paved recreational area
- Solar panels

CURTILAGE

The curtilage captures all significant or original elements of the place as described and consists of part of Lot 136, S3141, bound with the following coordinates (in accordance with the GDA 94 coordinate system). The curtilage excludes non-significant elements as listed in the citation description, including but not limited to the house and any ancillary structures and external areas as indicated on the attached curtilage map.

ID	Latitude	Longitude
1.	-27.579557	152.880708
2.	-27.579103	152.879982
3.	-27.579677	152.879582
4.	-27.580244	152.880163



Source: Brisbane City Plan Online Mapping

Proposed Citation - Local Heritage Place: Oakman's Garden (former) - 95 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill
For public consultation – Qualified State Interest Amendment – Local Heritage Places

SECURITY LABEL: OFFICIAL



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<p>Criterion A Historical</p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion B Rarity</p> <p>The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion C Scientific</p> <p>The place has the potential to provide information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion D Representative</p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion E Aesthetic</p> <p>The place is important because of its aesthetic significance</p>	<p>The former Oakman's Garden, an intact example of Harry Oakman's signature subtropical plantings exemplifying the design principles he outlined in his publications on residential landscape architecture, has aesthetic importance for its beautiful attributes and natural beauty. As expressed in the citation's history, the garden, planted and designed by Oakman in retirement for personal use, features extensive experimental plantings, including colourful flowering plants, mature native trees and ground cover plants. In addition, the layout of the grounds, including the location and orientation of the house, the formal curvilinear driveway to the house, low brick planter boxes and raised garden beds adjacent to the house, and the open grassed areas to the east of the house, enhance</p>

	the natural beauty of the setting further using lush tropical foliage and flowering plants.
Criterion F Technical The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period.	N/A
Criterion G Social The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	N/A
Criterion H Historical Association The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the city's or local area's history	N/A

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