Statement of Significance & Heritage Impact

Collingwood WW1 Trophy Gun

formerly in Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill, City of Yarra, Melbourne

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Introduction

This report has been prepared to assist the City of Yarra in making a decision on a WWI German Artillery Field Gun that could impact on its heritage significance.

The report takes the approach that it is important to understand the heritage significance of a place/object before making a decision that could impact on its meanings and values. It therefore explores the questions –

- Why and how is the WWI German Artillery Field Gun of cultural heritage significance?
- How can it be understood in its historical context and broader themes?

The report uses the Heritage Council of Victoria's Criteria in making this assessment.

History

Australian servicemen during WW1 captured 1,340 enemy guns and mortars, which led to the creation of the Australian War Trophy Collection (AWTC). In relative terms this ordnance display formed the largest collection of its kind ever assembled by an allied army.

By September 1922 some 987 war trophy guns had been distributed throughout Australia specifically for memorial purposes to local government councils, schools, halls and other public institutions such as hospitals. According to Mark Clayton, 'Though never previously acknowledged, the trophy gun was by far the single most common WW1 commemorative form' in the Australian civic landscape.[1] More numerous than the well-known digger monuments and cenotaphs, they were the first of all war memorials to be erected in Australia and stood in marked contrast to memorials that followed with traditional cemetery iconography in marble and granite. Devoid of names and dedications, the trophy 'forcefully represented collective rather than individual effort … In this respect at least the trophy gun seemed a more appropriate symbol, one that accurately reflected the egalitarianism of the ANZACs themselves'.[2] The trophies captured by the Australian forces were the largest guns seized during the war and were the largest collection per head of population than any other combatant nation. To many, these triumphal relics of the war were imbued with iconic meaning and national pride. They also stood as a constant reminder of the terrors of war and what communities on the home from endured, and to some these instruments of war were an unwelcome feature in the civic landscape.

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[1] Clayton, Mark, Mark Clayton, 'To the victor belongs the spoils: a history of the Australian War Trophy Collection 1914–1993', MA Public History thesis, Monash 1991, p18. By contrast a survey published in 1991 by Inglis and Phillips estimated that the sum of all other Australian memorials including statues, cenotaphs, columns, halls, clocks, parks, rotundas and avenues amounted to about 1455 items.[1]

[2] Clayton, p95

Australia's first large consignment of 180 guns arrived in mid-1918 and was displayed in Melbourne's Domain, St Kilda Road under a small military guard. Taken during the Battle of Amiens, the most decisive conflict of the war, with Australia's troops gallant in the victory, each gun represented a well-documented act of heroism; a trophy captured from the battlefield that was both symbol and historic artefact of allied victory and enemy defeat. The guns manufactured and used by Germans had the most symbolic value as trophies, and knowing that these weapons were manufactured by the German Krupp company from ore mined in Australia further sanctioned their return to these shores as a matter of principle and recompense.

Troopers collected the 'rewards of victory' with great enthusiasm with the units maintaining monthly lists and taking pride in noting details of all markings and fixing labels and the date of capture on each item. Virtually every gun and mortar went first to Melbourne, where the Australian War Trophy Collection (AWTC) and the Australian War Records Service (AWRS) were headquartered. The first consignment of 220 guns arrived in 1919 on the SS Bulla. Although it was generally expected that few trophies would need to be maintained in serviceable condition, standards were adopted for their care during and after shipment and comprehensive instructions prepared for each class of weapon. Prior to their voyage each item was greased and a decision made regarding its indoor/outdoor storage, with small items generally to be housed indoors. All had their detachable parts removed to guard against souvenir pilfering and these were identified and packed away to be re-attached later.

In just three months early in 1919 some 1,000 trophy applications including 300 from regional and rural municipalities arrived to claim a weapon for their communities. This overwhelming interest was largely generated by the visit of Prime Minister Billy Hughes to the front in February where he was shown a 15-pounder gun. Admiring its monumental qualities he remarked "we must have that" for Melbourne or Sydney, to which troopers replied "we'll get you one for every city'.[3] Quickly reported back home, his comment gained such momentum that delegations and applications for gun trophies were still being received as late as 1928.

At first there was no domestic precedent for trophy distribution unlike Britain, Europe and the United States and deciding on a system for allocating 1,340 guns equitably was no easy task. Canada and the USA opted for the principle of proportional enlistments and Australia adopted the policy of proportional population despite widespread public protest of it being unfair and leading neighbouring communities to draw critical comparisons and with trophy sizes, which inevitably became synonymous with civic importance. Williamstown councilors were outraged over their allocation of a machine gun when the local high school was given a canon. St Kilda and Malvern were initially each offered a mere trench mortar, while the local private school, Caulfield Grammar received a German field gun. There was also concern that a unit of troopers which had captured a gun would not see it allocated to their home town or municipality. Prahran residents were upset to learn that a 105mm howitzer field gun captured by local men was mistakenly allocated to Richmond; this was later resolved with an amicable swap.[4]

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3 *Argus*, 3 February 1919

4 Clayton, p72

By October 1919 a War Committee had been appointed to each state and a workable policy was up and running with the proportions decided for each state.[5] Towns with a population of more than 10,000 would receive 2 guns and 2 machine guns, and 1 gun would go to towns of between 3,000 and 10,000, while towns of 300 to 3,000 residents were to be allocated 1 machine gun.[6] The distribution for cities as it stood in 1920 would provide 20 guns, 40 machine guns and 10 mortars each to Melbourne and Sydney; with Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart receiving smaller allocations in that order.[7]

In March 1921, another 6 field guns, 5 trench mortars and 22 machine-guns were allocated to 33 of Melbourne's suburban and outer municipalities: Prahran would receive its field gun captured by the 22nd Battalion near Geneve, France; South Melbourne, a 77mm gun captured by the 46th Battalion in August 1918 during the final offensive; Richmond, a 77mm gun also captured by the 46th Battalion in August 1918; Essendon, another 77mm gun captured by the 46th Battalion; Brunswick, a 4.2 gun captured by the 22nd Battalion; and Collingwood, which was to receive a '5.9 howitzer captured by the Australian Corps on the Western Front'. Unlike other municipalities, the details of location and date of capture were not included with Collingwood's trophy and these still remain somewhat unclear today. Several trench mortars and machine guns were to go to several suburbs which included Fitzroy, Coburg, Northcote, Brighton, Kew, Preston, Sandringham and outer areas such as Doncaster and Werribee. Along with each trophy the Committee was to supply a 'complete history of its capture, and suggestions for its mounting and display.[8] Trophy transfers were formally signed on a printed Agreement, which bound the recipient to a small number of obligations. Signed by 3 appointed trustees and an ex AIF member, it stated that custodians were to:

> *(a) Arrange for it [the trophy] to be permanently housed in a public park, garden, or building within the town, whichever may appear most suitable, and for its subsequent preservation and safe custody.*
>
> *(b) Arrange a simple ceremony, at which it should be formally taken over.*
>
> (c) *Bear all expenses connected with transport and installation after arrival at the nearest railway station.*[9]

The government made a total of 3,497 offers to municipalities and sometimes waited months for replies. This could have been due to residents being unhappy with their allocated weapon, but may also have reflected complacency or perhaps even an unwillingness to want a trophy in their community. Although letters were sent to advise that unclaimed trophies would be pooled and allocated elsewhere, deadlines for notification of acceptance were usually extended and guns continued to be available throughout the 1920s.[10] The Soldier Settlement district of Werribee South for example received its Howitzer gun on 7 September, 1927.[11]

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5 Ibid; *Argus*, 18 October 1919 p14

6 *Argus*, 26 March 1920, p6

7 Ibid.

8 *Argus*, 19 March 1921, p18; some of the gun sizes appear to have been reported inaccurately

9 As per Collingwood contact dated 27 April 1920 reproduced in Kevin Browning's report

10 Clayton, p74, 75

11 Pers com Werribee RSL, 26 November 2018

The idea of allocating a captured war gun or gun of any kind to a school would strike most people today as profoundly unthinkable and perverse. Yet numerous types of trophy guns were prized by schools and installed in their buildings and yards in the belief that they would teach children about war and the higher duty of sacrifice. Schools were some of the first recipients of captured guns, and newspaper articles suggest that boys' grammar schools in particular competed for them. In June 1921, Brigadier-General HE (Pompey) Eliot presented Caulfield Grammar School with an 18lb (77mm) field gun, which had been captured at Villers-Bretonneux on 8 August 1918.[12] In August he officiated at another handover to Camberwell Grammar School.[13] That year Scotch College received a large Turkish gun, which took 'pride of place in front of the Prep School' until moved to the 'horse paddock'.[14] The recipients were not confined to boys' schools but included several state secondary schools attended by girls and boys. Elliot officiated at Coburg High School in September 1921 to present yet another gun captured at Villers-Bretonneux. Addressing the pupils on the subject of 'Unity, Service, Sacrifice', he said 'there was no room in this country for anyone who accepted the privileges made available by our flag, and gave nothing in return', and in handing over the trophy recounted its capture and then unfurled a Union Jack on a new flag pole in front of the school.[15] Not surprisingly, all trophies gifted to schools have since been removed. The whereabouts of most of them are unknown, except for the Scotch College gun, which lays buried in the school grounds.[16] Just prior to WW2, it collapsed and crushed a schoolboy to death.[17] Brighton Grammar also buried its 75mm gun.[18]

Many photographs taken soon after guns were allocated show children perched on their barrels, carriages and wheels. Footscray's 210mm Howitzer and 75mm mortar have since been removed and their locations are now unknown

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12 *Table Talk*, 16 June 1921, p19; its location is unknown today

13 *Herald*, 12 August 1921, p8; the gun is not included in the Artillery History Register and its location is unknown

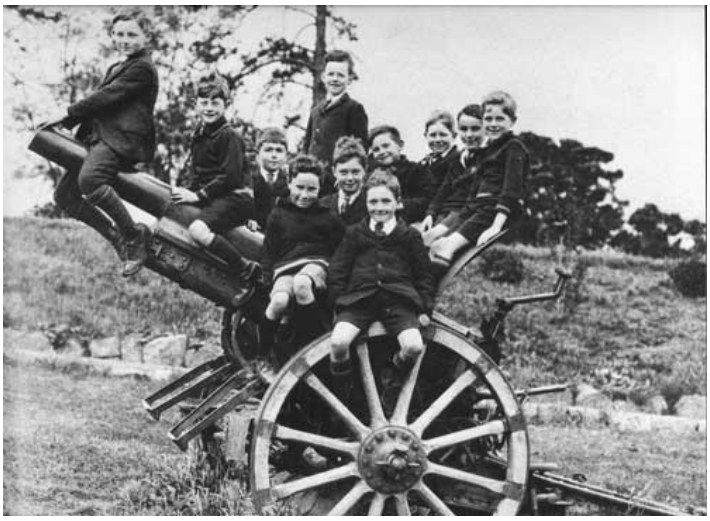
14 Clayton, preface. The gun is now buried in the school grounds

15 *Argus*, 13 September 1921, p8; the gun has since been removed and its location is unknown

16 Time has not allowed the author to locate these items

17 Clayton, p107

18 Memorials Register



Scotch College's 105mm gun after it was moved to the 'horse paddock'

Geelong Grammar's 77mm gun has since been removed and its location is unknown

The Catholic newspaper, the *Advocate* was not alone when it protested against the display of war trophies in schools, questioning that 'it seems strange that many of those very people who are striving to introduce Bible instruction into the State Schools are also seeking war trophies for school grounds, and striving to inculcate feelings of race hatred which are contrary to the spirit of Christianity'. It proposed that the 'large stock of German guns on hand' be melted down as 'old iron, or a few placed in a war museum as gruesome relics of the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind'. It wasn't a lone voice; a number of municipal councilors objected to the practice of distributing German guns as trophies of war, 'and otherwise promoting a feeling of militarism amongst school children'.[19] The *Socialist* newspaper published in Melbourne reported that the French city of Perigueuax had unanimously voted to refuse to have these reminders of war placed in its community squares and parks and urged that they

[19] *Advocate*, 21 April 1921, p19

instead be melted down with the money given to war widows and orphans.[20] Some very agitated South Melbourne councillors, one a returned soldier, voted to oppose the acceptance of a field gun but lost their cause by just one vote.[21] In neighbouring Port Melbourne, a councillor objected to a machine gun being put on display in the local RSL arguing that 'we have no use for such scrap iron' here and 'many other residents as well as I do, detest the sight of manslayers. These things are repugnant to me'.[22] Over in Perth, the mayor of that city in commenting on a proposal in England to scrap captured guns said that if 'people scrapped their war trophies it would be better in the interests of those working for peace … they only appeared to remind us of the tribulation, suffering and sorrow which people had endured during the war'.[23] By 1933, some Collingwood councillors were now uncomfortable with guns in parks and gardens and argued forcefully for the removal of the Howitzer from Darling Gardens, but their motion was convincingly defeated by 10 votes to 2.[24] Although fifteen years had passed since the Armistice, the majority of Collingwood's councillors still revered the large German gun, which remained 'symbolic of their everlasting esteem and regard for the fallen soldiers'.[25]

Unidentified large field gun in the Domain, St Kilda Road, Melbourne showing corrosion already eating into the carriage (Museum of Victoria image)

Many of these large WW1 guns had been standing outdoors exposed to the elements since 1921 and now were beginning to weaken from corrosion placing both the trophy and the public at risk. Although the AWRS had taken steps to care for the scores of trophies as they were processed and also required recipients to maintain the items, it was inevitable that their steel and timber fabric would decline. Initially, loads of the guns had been 'parked' for months outdoors in the Domain camp on St Kilda Road,

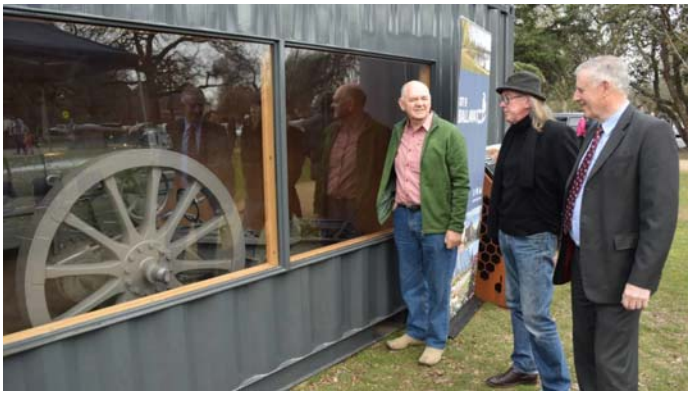
20 *Socialist*, 26 March 1920, p2
21 *Herald*, 7 April 1921, p6
22 *Age*, 24 March 1921, p10
23 Reported in *Horsham Times*, 14 September 1928, p6
24 *Age*, 5 April 1933, p12
25 Ibid

which provided pedestrians with 'a comprehensive view' of numerous 'field pieces, large and small, of intricate mechanism and simple, and of the latest types in the war period and of earlier design … All bear significant marks of severe war damage. All are thickly coated with rust, and any post-war use or value that might have been left in them when they were removed from active service has not been appreciated by the exposure of months in the Domain'.[26]

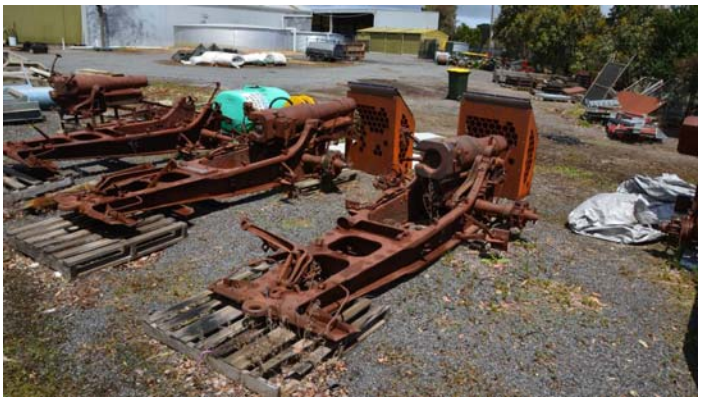
Clayton writes that maintenance demands and public injuries increased during the inter-war period to the extent that they 'undermined the trophy's cultural and spiritual importance' and as a result 'during world war two, councils were actively seeking to divest themselves of these responsibilities'.[27] Aware of its obligations, Hawthorn began exploring 'some other way of complying with the conditions of the trust agreement' that would allow for the removal of its 150mm Howitzer guns from its municipal park location. Geelong, which had two 150mm Howitzers, also tried to do the same.[28] At some point, Ballarat's guns flanking the city's memorial arch were removed due to their deteriorated condition and Werribee South's gun, which had stood in front of a community building since 1927 was dumped in a market garden.

Ballarat's 'Avenue of Honour Arch' with its flanking guns, which appear to be the 2 Howitzers allocated to the city. The impressive monument stands today with its associated avenue of over 3,000 trees and additional memorial plaques dedicated to later conflicts. Due to their deteriorating condition the guns were removed and are in the care of the council, with one having been restored. It is currently on loan to the RSL and has been relocated to their quarters at Invermay Park, Midlands Golf Club, where it is interpreted and displayed in a glass-fronted enclosure. The Avenue of Honour, Arch and other associated structures are included in the Victorian Heritage Register, H2089. (Image from State Library of Victoria)

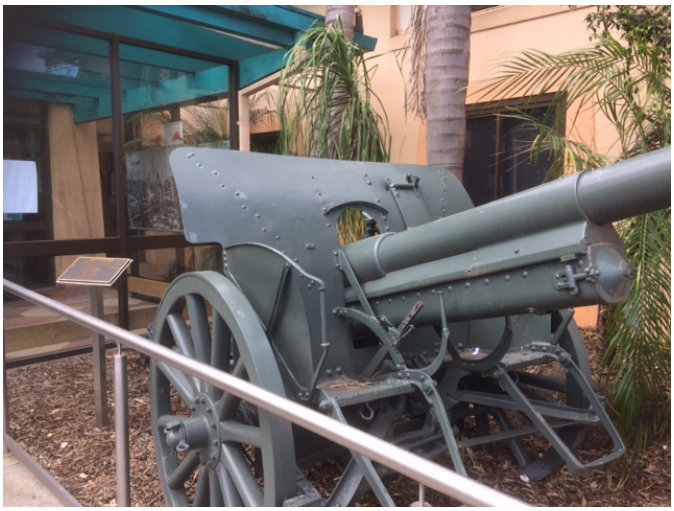
[26] *Age*, 4 March 1921, p6
[27] Clayton, p107
[28] Ibid, p108



The recently restored Howitzer, one of two from Ballarat's Avenue Arch of Honour. It is on loan to the RSL, during which time the league is responsible for its care and management



Ballarat's severely corroded and degraded trophy guns, including the two Howitzers originally flanking the arch. One of these was recently restored (c.2012) and relocated to Midlands Golf Club.



Werribee South's 105mm Howitzer gun, originally located at the Soldiers' Settlement in front of its modest weatherboard memorial hall, which was later used as a school. After removal to the rear of the building it deteriorated and ended up on private property. In 1994 it was recovered by the police and later restored, and today stands outside the entrance to the Werribee RSL quarters

According to Clayton, it was during the post-WW2 period that many of Australia's 1,340 WW1 trophies and mortars were destroyed or lost and by the early 1990s as few as 20% remained.[29] Private collectors have preserved a significant number of guns, some of which have returned to public display in new locations in parks (Ballarat) or outside RSL buildings (Werribee). Much of this restoration and research activity has been stimulated by commemorative activities associated with ANZAC centenaries and events. Remembrance and awareness of our memorials and their history and our participation in war however has also stirred up anti-war feelings and for some has been the

> cause for renewed moral anguish. The Woollahra council was concerned by 'changing community attitudes towards [these] bellicose symbols', and feared the trophy gun's potential to generate 'heated and somewhat emotional debate.' It recognised that 'at the minimum' there was 'a moral obligation' for council to preserve its gun, and that this would have to be balanced against the need 'not to offend any person or group.' The matter was finally resolved when council decided that inaction was the most appropriate course of action. It may have been rediscovered but like many of Australia's surviving trophy guns, it faced an uncertain future.
>
> The situation at Woollahra is in many respects indicative of the dilemma now confronting all trophy owners and custodians. These first generation war memorials have been severely degraded to the point where they nearly all require major restorative surgery and financial outlay. Only a fraction of these, moreover, are preserved in their original trophy-memorial contexts. And yet, although depleted by almost 80% the Australian War Trophy Collection remains the world's largest, and most important world war one artillery collection. These scattered remnants have now acquired immense historical and technological significance, a point that is generally understood by councils, private collectors and mainstream heritage agencies (e.g. the Australian War Memorial) alike.
>
> But how can a service organisation like a municipal council possibly justify a $37,950 [this was the approximate cost of conservation treatment in the early 1990s] expenditure on such a non-essential service as the restoration of a park gun, something that offers little more than a recreational benefit? The sense of moral obligation is often there, but this is seldom matched by the necessary financial and technical services. For many trophy guns in this eleventh hour reawakening may have come too late in the century to be of any practical benefit.
>
> Then again, it would seem to matter little even if the resources were available to these modern day custodians. For what they'd be preserving would be the history and the technology, rather than the memories and the sense of spirituality which once set these guns and mortars apart as the building blocks of an enduring national ethos.[30]

Mark Clayton's final paragraphs in his thesis submitted in the early 1990s remain pertinent to the issues today facing the former City of Collinwood's Darling Gardens gun. Now a relic without wheels and pitted by rust, it is in need of conservation treatment to repair and arrest the deterioration of its fabric.

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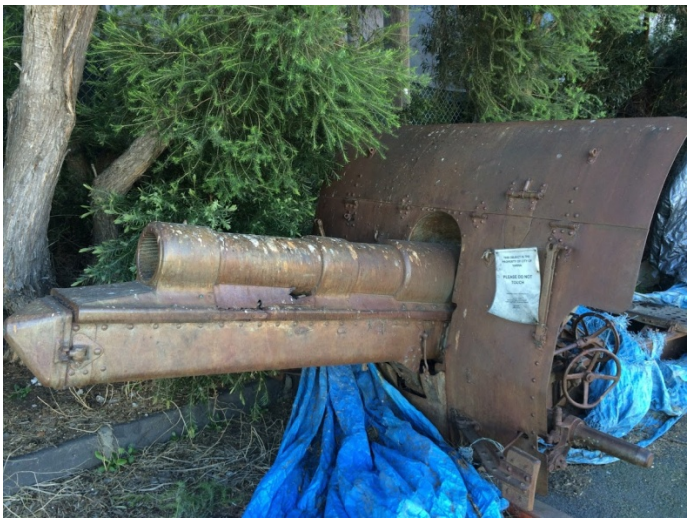
[29] Ibid; p112

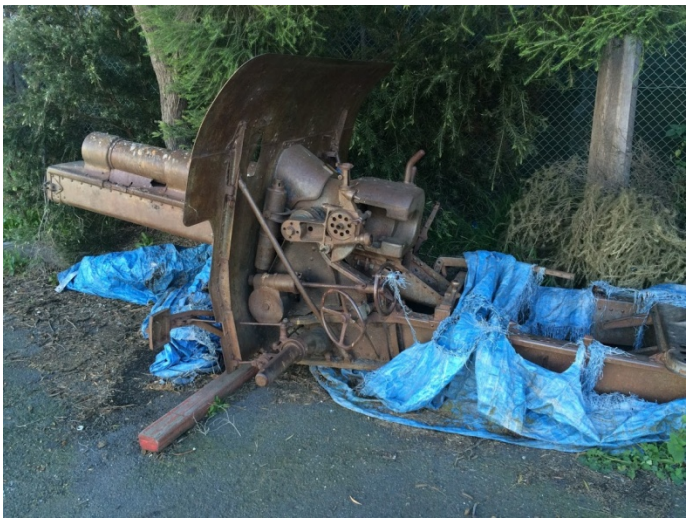
[30] Ibid, pp110-113

Compared to the condition of the Ballarat guns however, the carriage, shield and barrel have survived somewhat better over their more than 100 years of existence and remain together as a unit. The gun's gradual decline appears to have accelerated since its removal from the park, which was necessary due to public safety concerns.

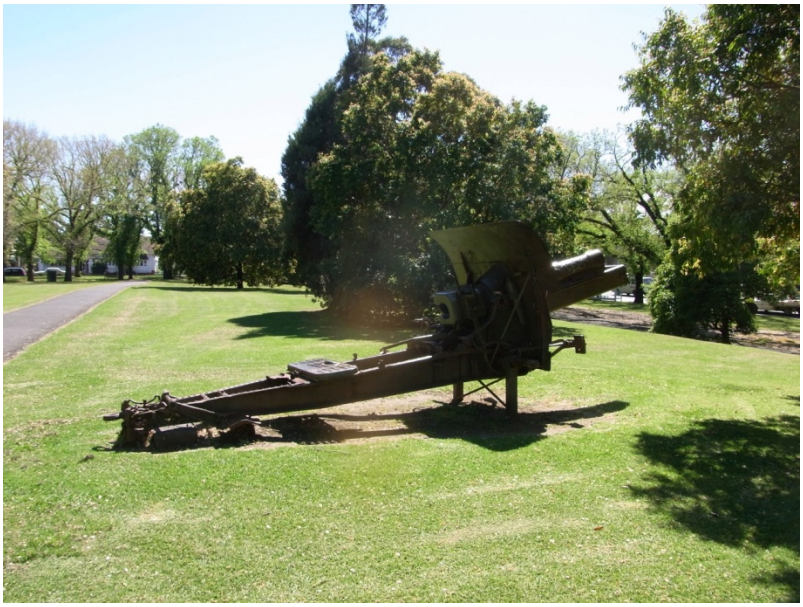
Conserving the gun's fabric to a stable degree (as opposed to restoring it) and reinstating the wheels is an easy and practical decision to make. However, deciding what role the gun has in the community is more complex matter. The public display of WW1 guns, particularly the Collinwood gun, has always been controversial and this is bound to continue into the future. Some members of the community argue that it provocatively glorifies war, others maintain it is a solemn and unique memorial to those who fought in the war.



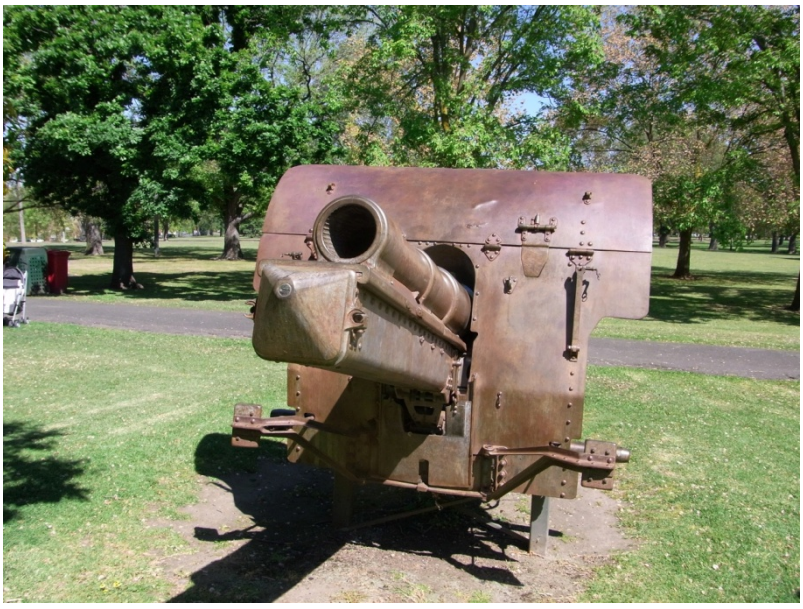
Collingwood's Darling Gardens Howitzer currently stored in the City of Yarra depot showing the intact barrel and shield



Collingwood's Darling Gardens Howitzer showing the relatively intact workings behind the shield



The location of the Collingwood Howitzer prior to its removal from the gardens



The Collingwood Howitzer prior to its removal from the gardens showing the relatively remarkable condition of the steel fabric, which appears to be protected by a wax coating

Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance

The former City of Collingwood's WW1 Trophy Gun

What is significant?

The former City of Collingwood's WW1 German field gun was offered to the municipality in 1920 as one of many war trophy guns and mortars allocated to councils by the government after the Armistice. The 1,340 weapons captured by Australian servicemen led to the creation of the Australian War Trophy Collection and included the largest guns seized during the war and proportionally the largest number of items amassed by the combatant nations. As claimed by Mark Clayton, they were the first of all commemorative war memorials to be erected in the Australian landscape and originally were more numerous than the familiar digger monuments and cenotaphs that followed in the form of traditional cemetery iconography crafted in stone.

They were distributed to municipal councils for public display in parks and gardens, school yards and at entrances to civic offices, hospitals and community halls. Collingwood's acceptance of the gun is documented in an Agreement between the State Trophy Committee and three Trustees appointed by the Collingwood Council and is dated 27 April 1920. The gun, a 150mm Heavy Field Howitzer Model 1913, was manufactured by the German company, Krupp in 1915. It was reputedly captured by the Australian Corps in France on 18 September 1918, and was among the first big guns shipped to Australia on the SS Bulla in 1919. It was placed in Collingwood's Darling Gardens in accordance with the Agreement, which required the gun to be 'permanently housed in a public park, garden, or building' and for the Trustees to ensure 'its subsequent preservation and safe custody'. Around the same time, the former cities of Richmond and Abbotsford were each allocated smaller 77mm guns, and Northcote a 150mm Howitzer which have all since been lost or removed from their districts.

No information is currently available on the social and historic role of the gun as a war memorial in Darling Gardens. The long history of its association with the park, where it continued to stand for close to 100 years is yet to be revealed. This is common to many of these memorials, which stood rather anachronistically as relics in parks and other civic places and then silently disappeared. One period in the gun's history however does stand out and reflects a shift in the values and meanings held in the community for these types of memorials. This was in 1933 when one Collingwood councillor, Cr Marshall, a veteran of the Boer War, irreverently and unsuccessfully moved that the gun in Darling Gardens along with all such 'implements of war in parks and gardens be removed, and that it be the future policy of the council to refrain from such military displays'. The debate became disorderly with Marshall continuing to say that he was appalled at the manner in which the horrors of warfare were being glorified in their beautiful gardens. 'Such objects should be held up to the vilification of the younger generation as the destructors of all art, beauty and progress. These displays were absolutely in conflict with Australian sentiment. On two occasions the populace of the Commonwealth, in no uncertain voice, declared itself against war. Why the desire to perpetuate the greatest curse that had

ever befallen civilisation? They had to contemplate their own soldiers being killed alongside such guns'. Outraged by these words, one fellow councillor defended the display of guns in the community and vowed that he was 'glad to assemble children at the guns and inform them of the horrors which those implements of war inflicted, and asserted that 'the gun was symbolic of their everlasting esteem and regard for the fallen soldiers'.[31] Convincingly defeated by 10 votes to 2, Marshall nevertheless continued to pursue the matter at the next council meeting and unsuccessfully urged that the gun be given to the captain of the German navy cruiser currently visiting the city 'as a friendly gesture with fraternal greetings for the co-operation of both nations in peaceful progress'.[32]

For many people in the community, the trophies were symbols of civic pride and imbued iconic meaning, but for others they represented the horrors and glorification of war. With less than a fifth remaining today, trophy guns and are much less visible in our community, yet these surviving memorials still provoke ambivalent and sometimes conflicting attitudes. Unlike many other examples, which have been relocated or destroyed, the Collinwood gun has weathered through controversy while remaining in its original park setting. It is relatively intact compared to other, similar guns from WW1 and despite the loss of its wooden wheels remains a good example of its kind.

How is it Significant?

The Collingwood Trophy Gun is of historical and scientific (technological) significance to the City of Yarra. It satisfies the following criteria:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern of Victoria's cultural history

The Collingwood trophy gun is of historical importance for its association with Australia's and Germany's involvement in the Great War. It exemplifies the values held by many Australians during the war and its aftermath and the profound attitudinal shifts that occurred over subsequent decades.

The gun is significant for its enduring association with Collingwood and its clear provenance to the Darling Gardens.

Criterion B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

The gun is significant as one of a small number of WW1 trophy guns which remain in their original location.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural objects

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31 *Age*, 5 April 1933, p12

32 *Age*, 11 April 1933, p11

It is significant as a relatively intact, representative example of a large Howitzer field gun which demonstrates the technology of WW1 artillery and warfare. Manufactured and used by Germans and captured by Australian servicemen, it was among the largest of the 1,340 enemy guns and mortars to be shipped to Melbourne for distribution throughout Australia as war trophies, which were and later enshrined as memorials.

Considerations

What is proposed?

Review the location options for the WW1 field gun formerly situated in Darling Gardens, Collingwood/Clifton Hill

How have options been explored?

They have been explored through community consultation and reports.

What impact will relocation have on the gun's significance?

- It will negatively affect the gun's historical significance by severing the its long association with Darling Gardens and the municipal area formerly known as the City of Collingwood.
- The gun will lose its importance as one of the few WW1 guns that remain in situ.

Is relocation essential for the field gun to survive?

No

Does the original location of the Field Gun contribute to its significance?

Yes

What changes to its original setting are proposed?

The gun requires conservation treatment before it is returned to public display. This will necessitate reviewing/upgrading its siting, presentation and interpretation

Is it respectful of its heritage values?

The current draft design response to the Barkly Gardens location option does not enhance the gun's heritage values. The gun should not be painted in a camouflage pattern but simply presented in its natural brown metal.

How can its heritage values be retained? Is it possible to keep all the significant elements and distinctive characteristics?

Do as much as possible to conserve and interpret the gun but as little as possible to change its overall fabric/appearance, historical integrity and function. Preferably reinstate the gun in its original Darling

Gardens location (this does not mean the exact site that it formerly occupied). Provide interpretation to explore the history and context of the gun from various perspectives.

Could the siting and presentation of the gun impact on its heritage values?

Yes.

Will the gun enhance its setting?

This is possible to achieve.

How can it be interpreted to enhance its heritage values and convey its special meanings?

Take a 'low key approach' in physically presenting the gun and sensitively explore its values and meanings, including the polemical side to the history of trophy guns in the community

The following options have been considered and discounted:

- Selling the gun – not appropriate; this is contrary to the original Agreement.
- Deaccession – this would negatively impact on the gun's historical significance
- Relocation to Barkly Gardens – this is not the preferred option (see Statement of Significance). Removing the gun from its original context will impact on its heritage values. The gun's individual meanings and values could be subsumed into the commemorative fold of the war memorial site

The following option is recommended:

- Repatriation to Darling Gardens – this is the preferred option for maintaining and enhancing the gun's cultural heritage significance. The gardens offer potential for the gun to be sensitively and meaningfully interpreted to enhance its heritage value and varied meanings so as to broaden understanding of WWI

Detail of boys playing on the Darling Gardens field gun in May 1933. The image was published in the *Herald* when Collingwood councillors were having heated discussions on returning the gun to Germany. *Herald*, 16 May 1933, p22