



Friends of Callan Park
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11 November 2019

President's report 2019

Callan Park has been back in the spotlight this year and there have been some promising if small steps forward. Whether this will translate into real action will be decided in 2020.

In the March state election Labor promised to create a Callan Park & Broughton Hall Trust and more funding if elected; the Liberal-Nationals Coalition was re-elected and the new, enlightened Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Rob Stokes, has renewed focus on the future of Callan Park. In response to lobbying by the Friends he promised public consultation on the future of Callan Park and, specifically, the public exhibition of the Landscape Structure Plan. Dr Caroline Butler-Bowden has been appointed Executive Director, Public Spaces at NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment and has been given responsibility for Callan Park.

There have been no undertakings about funding and the demolition-by-neglect continues although some minor and welcome repair works have been carried out: the original Gardener's Cottage. Our liaison with the Minister and his Department is continuing, as are our excellent relations with the Department's onsite staff.

FOCP have lobbied the Minister for Health and the Sydney Local Health District. We have pursued the 2018 promise of a mental health step-down facility at Callan Park. Nothing has come of this as yet but we remain in contact making the case for this and other mental health services at Callan Park. We also met with a representatives of the RSL, Inner West Council and NSW Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) in relation to the Callan Park War Memorial and the Sydney Harbour Bridge War Memorial; and we have been encouraged to apply for a grant from the OVA Community War Memorials Fund to commission a condition assessment report on the Callan Park War Memorial.

The Friends have recently updated our website, making it more attractive and useful. Our Facebook presence has also markedly increased. We have continued to print and send postcards to remind the Premier and ministers of Callan Park's importance and its needs. *Broughton Hall: Brought to Life*, the exhibition has been on display since 1 September 2018. We thank We Help Ourselves for their support for this installation. Sales of the *Callan Park*, *Broughton Hall* and *Douglas Grant* books continue. [FOCP also gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Tony Griffiths in allowing us to reprint and sell his publication about Douglas Grant.] See FOCP website to purchase copies of these publications – www.callanpark.com

FOCP once again participated in the annual National Trust Heritage Festival – *Tour of Neglect and Vision*; and History Week – *Douglas Grant at Callan Park*, a seminar presented by the award-winning film-maker and historian, Dr Tom Murray. There was great interest in both events.

National Trust Heritage Awards 2019 - FOCP submitted an application to the Awards for its 20+ years in the category of **Advocacy**: *To recognise the extraordinary commitment of a community group and/or individual who have pursued the protection and conservation of key heritage places, items or objects.* FOCP was **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**.

In 2019 FOCP conducted a record number of tours – both public and private groups, which have been keenly supported. There continues to be a huge enthusiasm for tours of the site.

FOCP Archives were finalised in May when 32 archive boxes were deposited with the State Library of New South Wales. FOCP records its appreciation to the State Library for accepting this record of FOCP's remarkable campaign for an extraordinary site of State Heritage significance.

Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) generated the idea of a community festival promoting health at Callan Park, *Between the Trees*. Originally planned for November, it has been postponed to March 2020. In preparation, FOCP has met monthly with SLHD since March.

What has been most heartening is the continuing interest of members and supporters with well-attended, lively monthly meetings and a hard-working and committed executive. We have also enjoyed the continuing support of our local MP Jamie Parker, who will be attending the AGM and Christmas Party on 2 December.

Next year, in addition to the open space, heritage maintenance and mental health priorities already mentioned, the Friends will be monitoring the government's management of Kirkbride which the University of Sydney will be vacating in the new year. On behalf of the executive, I hope for your continued interest in and support for Callan Park.



Hall Greenland, President
11 November 2019

BRIEF STATISTICS FOR 2019

- 12 Tours
- 11 Events – including Laneway, Museum of the Mind, Big Anxiety Festival, Classics in the Park
- 4 Speaking engagements
- 15 Meetings with government entities, Council, Health and others
- 11 monthly community meetings
- 8 Executive meetings

Donations are always welcome to assist FOCP in our efforts. Please post cheques to:

Friends of Callan Park
PO Box 238
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Or Direct Deposit into FOCP Bendigo Bank Account (provide your surname + "Donation")

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