



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Number: 22
Street: Barons Crescent
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
GPS: Co ordinates : Longitude 151.141377°E Latitude 33.818942°S



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig

Public or Private Type: Private
Group or Individual: Individual
Date of Assessment/Inspection: November 23

2023

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig) is regarded as significant in terms of its size and has developed a distinctive buttressed root system (*aesthetic value*).

The *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig) has representative and rarity value as a remaining vestige of the once extensive Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest community in Hunters Hill (*ecological value and botanic/scientific value*).

The *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig) is considered to have individual significance at a local level in terms of aesthetic and ecological value and botanic/scientific value.

4. IMAGES





22 BARONS CRESCENT, HUNTER HILL - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

5. SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES

Cultural/Social/Commemorative Historic Botanical/Scientific Ecological Visual/Aesthetic

6. SIGNIFICANT LEVELS

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

Ficus rubiginosa (Port Jackson Fig) is an Australian native species with a distribution range along the Australian east coast from Queensland to Bega in southern New South Wales. The species is endemic to the Hunters Hill area. Port Jackson Fig often grows as a lithophyte clinging to clefts in rocks and sandstone scarps and has the potential to self-seed.

Whilst being an endemic species, Port Jackson Figs have also been widely used as cultural plantings in the Hunters Hill area. As part of Council early tree planting initiative in c.1870, Mayor Jeanneret proposed an avenue of thirty trees, including twenty-six Port Jackson Figs, be planted along Ferry Street.¹

The species has a long association with Sydney and is one of the most iconic Sydney tree species. Plantings of figs in public parks and large gardens reached its height in Sydney in the late 19th to early 20th Centuries. Directors of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore (1848-1896) and Joseph Maiden, (1896 -1924), promoted the use of Port Jackson Figs and Moreton Bay Figs as key components for planting schemes throughout the mid-to-late 19th Century. The magnificent scale and broad dense evergreen canopies of figs were ideally suited to grand garden schemes.

The dominant vegetation community of Barons Crescent area would have been Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest. Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest occurs on sheltered sandstone slopes along the foreshores of Sydney's major waterways and coastal escarpments. It is an open forest with a moist shrub layer and a ground cover of ferns, rushes and grasses. The canopy can be dominated by pure stands of *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum), though more regularly this is found in combination with other tree species including *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig).

The Port Jackson Fig is located to the rear of the site. The specimen has developed an attractive buttressed root system. The specimen is likely to be a remnant or regrowth specimen, from the once extensive Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest community, rather than a cultural planting. The Port Jackson Fig has representative and rarity values as a remaining vestige of the ecological community in Hunters Hill.

Aerial photos of the Barons Crescent area from 1955 show that by that time development and land clearing had commenced. The subject site had a small dwelling positioned towards the front of the site. Extensive tree clearing had occurred, particularly in the front section of the site.



Aerial image 1955
Image Source: Historical Imagery

References:

¹ Beverley Sherry, 1989, Hunters Hill Australia's Oldest Garden Suburb, David Ell Press, Australia, pg 47