

---

# Lagunaria patersonia subsp. patersonia



T12178 Lagunaria patersonia  
subsp. patersonia

---

## Location

Werribee Park Mansion, 320 K Road,, WERRIBEE VIC 3030 - Property No T12178

## Municipality

WYNDHAM CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Contribution to landscape of historic garden

Particularly old

Aesthetic value

Historical value

These two specimens of Norfolk Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia* subsp. *patersonia*) located on the ha-ha wall of the original Chirnside Homestead garden represent the distinctive 1860s style of garden design and planting. They reflect the early colonial desire to incorporate native evergreen trees in order to create a microclimate on the wind-swept Werribee Plains. These specimens were selected and planted circa 1860s when Thomas Chirnside's nephew, Robert Chirnside, was installed as Property Manager of Werribee Park (1859 - 1866). The

Chirnside Family's contribution to Victoria's pastoral and agricultural growth was notable as leaders and pioneers of the colony's pastoral industry. Their vast land holdings in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland made them one of the wealthiest families in the colony. The grandeur of their influence and wealth is reflected in their opulent Roman Renaissance Revival style mansion at Werribee Park and its stately garden. These specimens are outstanding in their complementary and uniform growth habits and dimensions. They formed an important part of a garden around the early homestead which typified mid-nineteenth century Victoria. They were planted on the edge of the ha-ha wall along with other perimeter tree and shrub plantings. These plantings were also surrounded by wire and iron fences. This indicates a very defensive approach to the surrounding environment. These dominant evergreen plantings were repeated in the mansion garden around 1877. Both this early homestead garden and the later mansion garden embody the strong English interest in prominent evergreen trees which was at its peak during the early nineteenth century. This interest in England was influenced by the botanical discoveries and specimens collected from North America by the Scottish botanist David Douglas (1799 - 1834).

These two specimens of Norfolk Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia* subsp. *patersonia*) represent some of the earliest specimen plantings of this species still in existence within Victoria from the mid-nineteenth century and hence they are classified at a State level.

Measurements: 18/04/2012

Spread (m): Northern specimen E-W 10; N-S 10

Spread (m) Southern specimen E-W 8; N-S 10.5

Girth (m): Northern specimen 3.9; Southern specimen 3.8

Height (m): Northern specimen 14.2; Southern specimen 14.2

Estimated Age (yrs): 147

Condition: Good

Access: Unrestricted

Classified: 24/09/2012

Other Names Cow Itch Tree, Pyramid Tree, Sally Wood, White Oak, Norfolk Hibiscus,

Hermes Number 191409

Property Number

---

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*