

ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



Harry Howard Reserve

Lane Cove is well known for its leafy green vista and bushland tracks. A large part of that atmosphere was created and fostered by landscape architect, Harry Howard. He was employed as a consultant Landscape Architect by Lane Cove Council between 1969 and 1992 and was the first person in Australia to be retained by a local council in such a position. Harry developed Lane Cove's first landscape policy and the legacy of his visionary work can still be seen across the Municipality.

Harry Stanton Howard was born in Sydney in 1930 and grew up playing with his three brothers in bush gullies around Gordon and Turramurra. He was educated at Gordon Public School and North Sydney Boys High before graduating in Architecture from the University of Sydney and then completing a Diploma in town and country planning.

Described as a modernist, he was greatly influenced by world renowned architects, Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, and Mies van der Rohe. Modern Australian artists and freehand drawing masters, Lloyd Rees and Roland Wakelin are also named among his influences. During the 1950s he met Harry Seidler and they would remain lifelong friends.

Following his graduation, Harry worked in architecture and town planning, first briefly with Modernist, Sydney Ancher and then with the firm, Edwards, Madigan and Torzillo. He went on to specialise in site design and landscape development, establishing his firm in a unique North Sydney building of professional suites shared with other highly talented architects who were known as the 'Sydney School'.

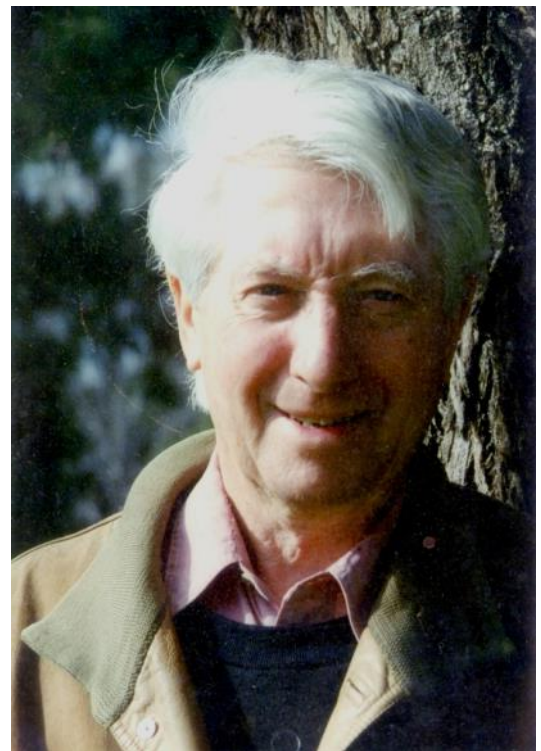
Howard's designs across Sydney include the landscape development of many schools for the NSW Public Works Department and Parent & Citizen groups. The Bush School at Wahroonga is a notable example. He also designed the courtyards at NIDA, the Australian Film Television and Radio School at North Ryde and Sawmillers Reserve, McMahons Point. The Sculpture Garden at the National Gallery of Australia and the landscape setting of the High Court in Canberra were also designed by Howard.

During the 23 years he worked with Lane Cove Council, Harry and his firm, Harry Howard & Associates were responsible for the original landscape design for Lane Cove Plaza (created by the closing part of Burns Bay Road in 1977). In 1979 he worked on plans for the rehabilitation of Blackman Park. During 1981 Harry prepared the *Stringy Bark Valley Landscape Study* which created a series of bushwalks through the valley. In 1983, he added the design for the Lloyd Rees Bandstand to the plaza site, and it won a Design Award

in the Small Structures category of the Membrane Structures Association of Australasia. Harry Howard & Associates also received an award of Horticultural Merit from the NSW State Council, Australian Institute of Horticulture for work on the Helen Street Reserve. His work with Council, integrating landscape architectural policies in planning and re-greening the Municipality broke new ground in Australia and became a model for other areas.

In 1996 Harry Howard received the highest accolade of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, the Australian Award in Landscape Architecture for his life's work. Harry died in September 2000, at the age of 69. Harry's work is remembered in a number of ways including the annual **Harry Howard Prize in Landscape Architecture**, Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW.

In 2004, a walking track along Stringybark Creek through Batten Reserve was renamed the 'Harry Howard Bushwalk' to recognise his contribution to our area and especially his 're-greening' of Lane Cove with local native tree species.



Harry Howard, circa 1998. Photographer Anna Howard.
(Courtesy A. Howard/B. Frame)

