

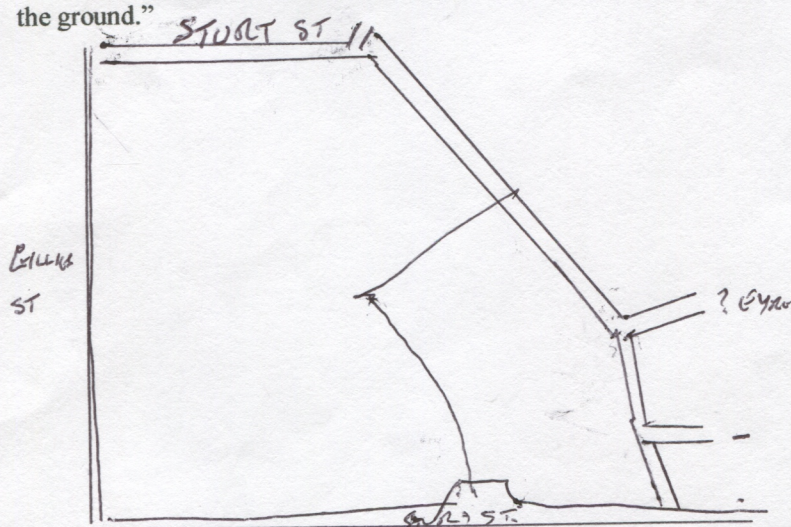
VICTORIA PARK.

Weston Bates in his book Lucky City notes that before 1890 this was a windswept place with ugly Mullock Heaps left behind by the rich Hand in Hand park mine / Park GM Co. 1868 - 1874

It appears from George Longley's letters to the Council that it was also the site for the City night Soil which was left to mature over 12 months before being transported to the Botanical Gardens. Probably, well prior to 1890 the Council were already considering change to the area as George Longley was asked to report on the scarcity of Night Soil on site in 1894 saying "there is about 80 loads of last years prepared and the season up to the present time about 50. Now, should the Council think of discontinuing this place as a depot for the night soil I would suggest that the manure on hand be kept for there is the present new shelter houses which will take about 30 loads and the trenching on the Western Border for line fence will take some 50 loads so that there would not leave much on hand."

On the 20th August 1884 he wrote to the Parks and Gardens Committee :- "Seeing that the Council is about to negotiate with Mr Hunter to take the Night Soil to form a deposit outside, now, if I may be allowed to express my opinion, the Council has a park of some 320 acres and from time to time there has been a tolerable sum spent on it and nothing to the purpose after all. What I would suggest at present is the following. The Entrance at a main avenue leading from Sturt St extending 350 yards with a curve road 33 feet wide. Plenty of quartz close at hand, then commence a trench on each side and deposit the soil 33 feet wide which would be making a border for two lines of gums, pines and when complete with one row of shrubs this would be preparing the ground to grow anything and by this time next year you could plant 1,000 trees which in a very short time give shelter to one of the bleakest coldest places in the neighborhood. The expense could not be much now and it would be reclaiming one of the most prominent places in the City but now as a barren waste. Hoping that the Council will consider this before they allow the manure to go from there."

George accompanied his letter with a sketch stating "This sketch is something after the form of the ground."



(The Report of the Local Board of Health for the year ending 31st. December 1886 includes :- "Botanical Gardens 202 acres. Site of manure Depot - Botanical Gardens." It seems that a different arrangement had occurred ? where was the new site within the Gardens.)

The Council must have taken some note of Georges suggestion as on 24th May 1890 Mayor Little invited the citizens of Ballarat to come to the park to plant trees. Each one was given a plan on which he was to find his (? her as well) name on it with a number alongside. He then went around the Park until he found his number with a hole dug and a tree beside it. At 11 o'clock a trumpet sounded and everybody