



MEDIA RELEASE

4 March 2018

Annie Wyatt's Tree Lovers Strike Again



Despite a rare heritage sasanqua camellia hedge at Gordon Railway Station earmarked for removal, Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment are determined to keep this heritage alive. On the weekend FOKE set about taking cuttings of the hedge hoping that they will strike into the future.

“This hedge is too important to lose,” said Mrs Kathy Cowley, President of FOKE. New evidence has uncovered that this sasanqua camellia hedge is associated with the famous Professor Waterhouse of Eryldene House & Garden from McIntosh Street, Gordon.

“Gordon railway station also has a strong connection to Annie Wyatt, the founder of the National Trust, who organised her Tree Lovers League to plant memorial trees overlooking the station in the 1920s”.

“We have to thank local MP Mr Jonathon O’Dea for organising a meeting where FOKE could hear in more detail about the proposal to widen platform 1,” said Mrs Cowley. Representatives attending the site meeting included FOKE, the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, Ku-ring-gai Council, Sydney Trains, NSW Heritage Office, and the NSW Minister for Transport.

“It was pleasing to hear the strong assurances given by Sydney Trains to protect the State Heritage values of Gordon Railway Station and its garden,” said Mrs Cowley. Sydney Trains gave assurances to repair the leaking canopy on Platform 1; make no changes to the existing canopy line on the southern end of Platform 1; to widen Platform 1 only by one metre; to replant a new hedge with mature sasanqua camellia plants; to

safeguard a row of significant trees; to ensure any new canopy would be sensitively designed, allowing light in and appropriately spaced.

“However it remains perplexing why Professor Waterhouse’s hedge can’t be replanted? Perhaps even along the western edge? Now that we know it was planted by Professor Waterhouse, it is too important to lose”.

Representatives from Sydney Trains and the NSW Minister for Transport agreed to investigate the planting of a 'green wall' to cover the long grey concrete western wall of the Bus Interchange.

Meanwhile FOKE will be caring for their cuttings of Professor Waterhouse’s hedge.

For media comment, please call Kathy Cowley on 0431 158 880 or 9416 9007