



MEDIA RELEASE

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Professor Waterhouse's Beloved Camellias Returned to Gordon Station

Sydney Trains Director, Mr Rod Smith, has met with FOKE (Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment) to share his delight in returning five of Professor E. G. Waterhouse's original 1930s camellias back into Gordon Railway Station's gardens.

These original Camellias were removed and stored off site by Ku-ring-gai Council and Bill Parker of Camelliarus in 2018 until they could be replanted back into Gordon Railway Station gardens.

Not only have Sydney Trains, with Ku-ring-gai Council, rescued, stored and replanted Professor Waterhouse's camellias, but they have also replanted 39 new *Camellia sasanqua* plants to recreate the lengthy hedge that was removed when Platform 1 was widened and covered with a new canopy in 2018.

Sydney Trains have taken the initiative to plant a new green vertical garden to cover the western Bus Interchange wall, facing Gordon Rail Station.

A plaque now commemorates this collaboration between Sydney Trains, Ku-ring-gai Council and the community. It reads:

These mature specimens of *Camellia hiemalis* Kanjiro (Hiryu) were originally planted here in the 1930s-1940s to the landscape design of eminent camellia expert and linguistic professor, E.G. Waterhouse.

Sydney Trains partnered with the local community and the Ku-ring-gai Council to save and replant this historical camellia hedge, and to salvage and reinstate the significant stone edge during the New Canopy works on Platform 1 in 2018.

Renowned Ku-ring-gai heritage expert, Jennifer Harvey, was able to confirm that Ku-ring-gai Council worked with Professor E.G. Waterhouse in 1927 on garden plans for Gordon Station costing 1,000 pounds.

"In 2018 Sydney Trains gave strong assurances to FOKE that they would protect the State Heritage values of Gordon Railway Station and its gardens. And they have. These works follow a strong tradition of garden 'beautification' works for Ku-ring-gai railway gardens. It is something we can all be proud of," said FOKE President, Mrs Kathy Cowley.

"We are now hoping that Sydney Trains and Ku-ring-gai Council will enter these gardens work that celebrate Ku-ring-gai's garden heritage into the 2020 National Trust heritage awards," concluded Mrs Cowley.

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