

SCHEYVILLE NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Volume 1

HISTORY



March 2009

Prepared for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Climate Change



**NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service**

Department of **Environment & Climate Change** NSW



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scheyville National Park is located in the Hawkesbury region, approximately 50 km north west of Sydney and 5 km east of the town of Windsor. It is situated within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council. The Park covers an area of 954 hectares. Scheyville National Park has a multi-layered history which provides great potential for the place as a destination for cultural tourism and education.

This draft CMP was commissioned by The Parks and Wildlife Division (PWD) of the NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation¹ (DECC). This corporate entity is legislatively responsible for environmental land management and conservation of places of natural and cultural heritage value. Management is by the Cumberland North Area of Sydney Region, which occupies an office in one of the quadrangle buildings in the Scheyville Camp area.

Scheyville National Park has a rich history of use and occupation. The main Aboriginal tribe of the Cumberland Plain was that of the Darug people. The study area had a substantial mobile Aboriginal population centred around the resources of the Upper Hawkesbury River until the creation of the Scheyville Common in 1804. The subsequent increase in agricultural activity saw a general movement by Aboriginal people away from the area and by the 1850s few were still living in the vicinity of Pitt Town, having moved camp further downstream.

Historical use of the Park began with its establishment as the Nelson Common in the early days of settlement. The first major intensification of use came with the establishment of the Government Collective Farm in the 1890s, which was transformed first into the Casual Labour Farm, and then the Dreadnought Farm.

The Dreadnought Scheme was a government initiative in which boys from England were trained at Scheyville to work on Australian farms. The scheme ran from 1910 to the 1940s, when Scheyville became a military training area. During the postwar period from the 1940s to 1964 Scheyville was an important migrant hostel in Australia, and from 1965 to 1973 it was used as the Officer Training Unit for the Australian Army, training conscripted men as officers for the Vietnam War. From 1973 until the place was dedicated as National Park in 1996, it saw a variety of community uses including by the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

The main periods of occupation may be summarised as follows:

1. Aboriginal Occupation
2. Nelson/Pitt Town Common 1804-1893
3. Pitt Town Co-operative Settlement 1893-1896
4. Casual Labour Farm 1896-1910
5. First Dreadnought establishment 1910s
6. Internment camp WW1
7. Dreadnought resumption
8. New Dreadnought era 1930s
9. WWII 1930s/40s
10. Migrant camp 1949-1964
11. Scheyville Officer Training Unit (OTU) 1964-1973
12. Hawkesbury Agricultural College
13. Tactical Response Group
14. Parks and Wildlife Group 1996 to present

Scheyville is an exceptional example of a layered cultural landscape with evidence of different uses from the early decades of the colony to the present day. Scheyville has retained its rural setting and this

¹ Now known as the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)

has contributed to the preservation of an outstanding heritage landscape of state significance, with a high degree of legibility.

Scheyville is able to demonstrate a long series of initiatives related to key government policies that have responded to the changing national and international environment, and had a major historical impact on Australian concepts of nationhood. Each phase of occupation at Scheyville has left a physical mark on the landscape and many of the recent phases of the history are richly evocative and resonate with themes and stories of direct relevance to contemporary history and debate in Australia. These include themes of rural life, immigration, military recruitment and training.

The continuing and vibrant interest shown by past residents of the place, and demonstrated through responses to Reunions and “Back To Scheyville” days and events, is indicative of the strong social values that the place still has, particularly for those associated with the Migrant Camp and the Officer Training Unit phases.

The 1804 Pitt Town Common was the first of a series of innovative agricultural ventures introduced at Scheyville to improve the economic and social circumstances of the rural community. Part of the common introduced by Governor King, is still discernible in the park boundaries. The Cooperative Farm and the Casual Labour Farm that followed are still present in the archaeological record and the extant manager’s residence also relates to this period. These phases of occupation and development in Scheyville’s history make a significant contribution to our understanding of food production in the early New South Wales colony as well as the impact of unemployment and skilled labour shortages in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are also associated with William F. Schey who was a significant figure in youth labour schemes at the time.

The Dreadnought phase is of state and national significance as the largest Dreadnought scheme farm in Australia and as a typical example of British child migration schemes. It is also significant that it was funded by monies originally donated to counter the perceived threat to a newly-independent Australia from the new Japanese Navy (by purchasing “Dreadnought” naval ships), and that a major aim of the scheme was to populate Australia with young men who could form a nucleus of a force to defend Australia from the possible Asian threat.

The Quadrangle Buildings from the Dreadnought phase are particularly significant both for their rarity, being the only purpose-built Dreadnought structures still extant, and for their landmark location overlooking the entranceway and early farm landscapes. The quadrangle buildings are modest in scale and design but are largely unaltered. They are significant for their ability to demonstrate past institutional uses related the Dreadnought and OTU phase and have had fairly continuous administration uses since 1929.

The remains of the Officer Training Unit operating from Scheyville from the Vietnam War period are particularly significant at state level for their rarity and their ability to demonstrate the training and social practices of the cadets and officers that might otherwise not be easily seen by the general public. Until relatively recently, the role of Australian soldiers in Vietnam has not been publicly acknowledged or commemorated. This gives Scheyville the potential to be a profoundly significant site for acknowledging, commemorating and educating the public about the experience of those that fought in the Vietnam War.

The migrant phase at Scheyville is of state and possibly national significance for its rare combination of physical, documentary and oral evidence. The remaining SSAR huts, coupled with the building pads from structures demolished in the 1980s and 1990s, give the site an easy legibility that makes it highly significant and, coupled with the ready public access, comparatively rare. The site size and layout is illustrative of the scale of post-WWII migration to Australia and is of state significance.

The SSAR huts are themselves of state significance as rare survivors of this building type.

The historic remains in Scheyville National Park provide evidence of an evolving cultural landscape of state significance. The Dreadnought Farm, Migrant Camp and OTU phases are of particular significance to the state, with the other phases being of considerable contributory significance in understanding the evolution of the landscape of the site.

Scheyville National Park will be managed in order:

- To create a lively, interesting and educational place that conserves and promotes the site's cultural and natural values.
- To develop Scheyville National Park as a key regional destination for cultural tourism and education.
- To develop partnerships with agencies and the private sector in interpretation, adaptive reuse and promotion.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Study Area

Scheyville National Park is situated in the Hawkesbury region near Windsor, approximately 50 km north-west of Sydney. It is within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council. The great majority of the National Park is within the catchment of Long Neck Lagoon. Its boundaries are:

- Midson Road and Scheyville Road to the east;
- Old Pitt Town Road and Old Stock Route Road to the west;
- Pitt Town Dural road and Cattai Road to the north; and
- The backs of rural and residential properties facing Saunders Road to the south, and boundaries with rural and residential properties along Avondale, Whitmore, Greenfield, Phipps and Old Stock Route Roads in the lower Longneck Creek catchment. (Figure 1)



Figure 1 Location Map (Source: PWG)

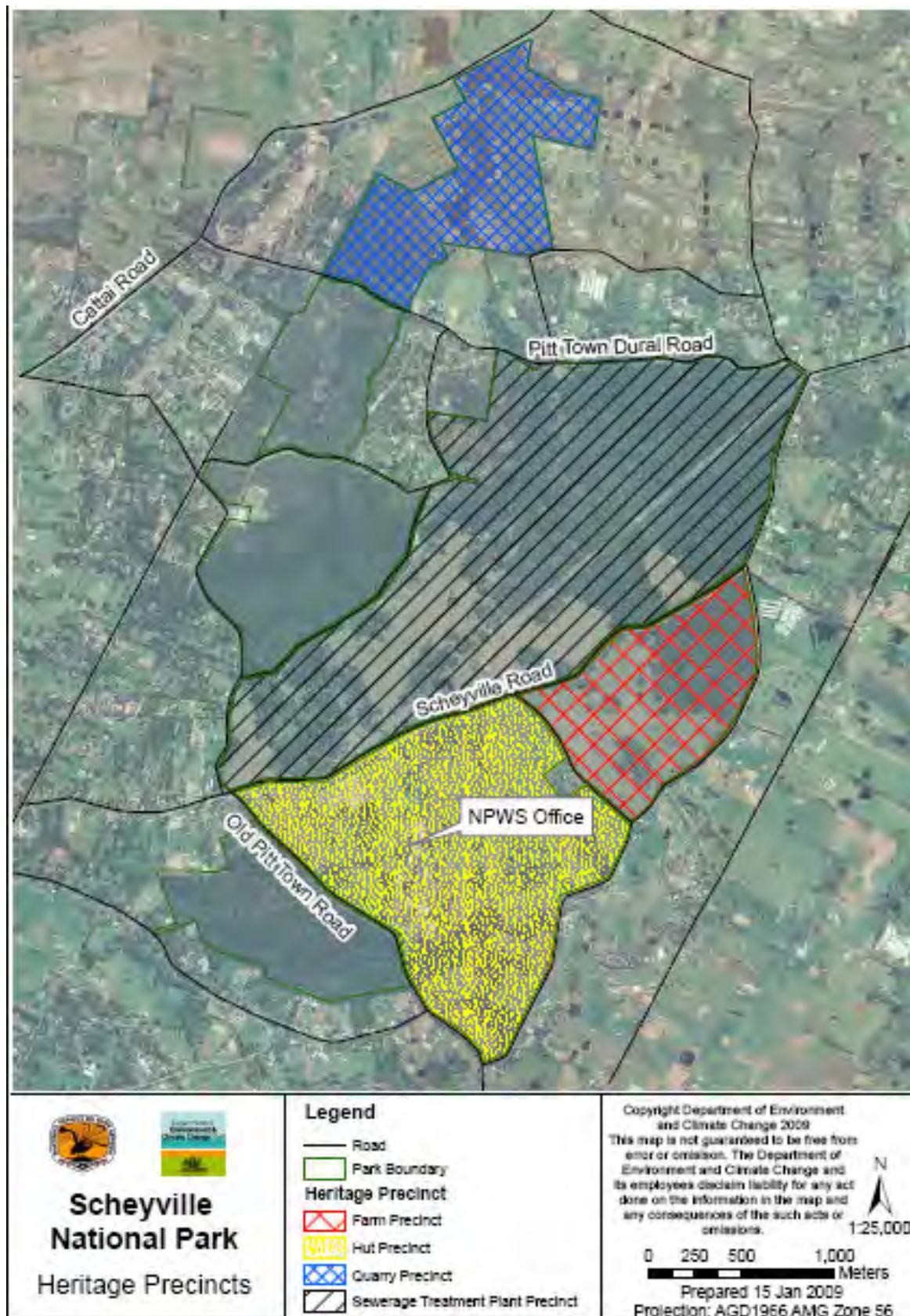


Figure 2 Key precincts covered by the conservation management plan

1.2 Background

Volume 1 of this conservation management plan (cmp) provided the historical context and background for the plan. Volume 2, provides the management framework for the site. It includes the physical analysis of the park, the statement of significance and guiding policies and management actions. Volume 3 of the report contains the appendices which provide a more detailed level of information on various aspects of the place.

1.3 Project Objectives and Outcomes

The aim of this cmp is to provide:

- a synthesis of the history of Scheyville National Park
- a statement of significance for the park
- policy direction for park management in relation to the historic heritage within the park
- an implementation schedule outlining ongoing, immediate, medium and short term actions
- maintenance schedules for the buildings.

The desired outcomes of the cmp are to:

- support the long-term conservation of the study area within Scheyville National Park;
- support the long-term management focus of the Scheyville Historic Precinct(s) as a cultural and educational tourism destination;
- support and enhance the long-term association between former occupants of Scheyville (and their families) and the Scheyville Historic Precinct;
- achieve management policies which result in a sustainable landscape in terms of the conservation of both cultural heritage and bio-diversity;
- inform the revision of the Plan of Management for Scheyville National Park; and
- ensure best practice management of cultural heritage values.

1.4 Approach

The following approach was adopted in the preparation of the CMP.

1. An integrated, or whole-of-landscape, approach with regard to the identification and assessment of all cultural (both Historic and pre-contact Aboriginal) and natural values.
2. A cultural landscape approach to understanding the values of the place within its wider environmental/bio-geographic, historic and social setting.
3. An emphasis on identifying the social/community values of the place and framing policies to manage and maintain them.
4. Development and clear articulation of a vision statement/head policy for the place (in line with the management of Scheyville National Park as a tourism and education destination).

1.5 Guiding Documentation

The Draft *Sydney Regional Cultural Heritage Management Strategy* provides guidelines and strategies for the management of cultural heritage within the Region, including Scheyville National Park.

The Scheyville National Park Plan of Management (PoM) 2000 forms the statutory basis for the management of the park and the historical places within it. This CMP is intended to inform the PoM and any future revisions of it.

Where conflicts between the CMP and PoM are identified, the issue(s) have been highlighted and a process for resolution determined.

1.6 Existing Information and New Research

The information that forms the basis of this cmp is the result of the analysis and synthesis of existing documentary and oral research relating to the Study Area. It is not intended to replicate the findings from these individual reports and they should be referred to for more detailed information. In particular the following reports are considered to be companion documents that should be referred to for greater detail on particular aspects of the place:

Booker et al 2002 "Scheyville National Park Conservation Management Plan for the Hut Precinct", conservation plan prepared for the University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture Heritage Conservation Program and the NSW Parks and Wildlife Group Service.

Edds, G & Associates, "Conservation Plan for Scheyville Site Former 'Officer Training Camp'", unpublished report to Hawkesbury City Council, March 1991.

Hamilton et al 2004 "Scheyville National Park Historical Research and Oral History. Final report" unpublished report prepared for the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Parks and Wildlife Division.

Irvine A et al 2002 "Conservation Management Plan-Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct" conservation plan prepared for the University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture Heritage Conservation Program and the NSW Parks and Wildlife Group Service.

Mahler J et al 2002 "Scheyville Conservation Management Plan (cmp) The former Farm Precinct" prepared for the University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture Heritage Conservation Program and the NSW Parks and Wildlife Group Service.

The Cumberland North Area provided the consultant team with access to all detailed studies, oral histories, historical photos, maps and plans relevant to the study area.

Where there were gaps in information, or where the information was not of an acceptable standard, these have been identified and relevant research by the consultant team undertaken.

1.7 Authorship

This plan is substantially based on an original draft by David Beaver. The principal authors of the original draft were David Beaver, Graham Edds & Associates, Ian Jack and Wayne Brennan. The work of Sue Andersen and Mary Ann Hamilton was extensively referenced in the history section. This volume is largely unchanged from the original draft by Ian Jack. The main changes have been the inclusion of additional references to excerpts from the oral history work done by Mary Ann Hamilton and Sue Andersen.

Substantial editing and additional text has been added by Cath Snelgrove to Volume 2 of the report in order to complete the document. This has been done using contributions by Jonathon Sanders, Col Davidson and Jacqui Goddard who contributed additional information on the SSAR huts.

1.8 Limitations

The various authors involved in the preparation of this report over a number of years has made completion of this cmp difficult and has led to a protracted period of writing and editing. There have been some changes and new proposals made for the site in the mean time which are not dealt with in detail in this report. These include a proposal to host a "Skyville" music festival at the site and the uncovering of sites by fire in 2006 and by controlled burns in 2008. These sites need further recording and analysis.

It is not intended to replicate readily available existing information in this cmp. Previously collated information on the physical layout and description of the site has therefore not been provided in any detail and the reports identified in 1.6 above should be consulted for further information on these areas.

Similarly oral history testimonies have not been included in their entirety in this report and the relevant oral history tapes, transcripts or summary reports should be consulted for further information.

It was not possible within the scope of this project to analyse sites newly uncovered as a result of fires in late 2006. These sites have been mentioned in the text but should be subject to further study and discussion.

1.9 Acknowledgments

Authors of previous conservation plans for the place in particular the Masters in Heritage Conservation student authors.

Sue Anderson, Mary Anne Hamilton and Laila Elmoos - Social/oral historians

Iain Stuart, JCIS consultants for information and advice on the migration and Vietnam periods at Scheyville.

Jonathan Sanders – Area Manager, Cumberland North, Parks and Wildlife Division, DECC

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Robin Aitken – Project Officer, Central Branch, Parks and Wildlife Division, DECC

Sharon Veale, Research Historian, Cultural Heritage Division, DECC

2 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

2.1 Aboriginal Use of the Land

Aboriginal people, spreading from the north of Australia, colonised the Cumberland Plain at least 30,000 years ago and probably much earlier. The Upper Hawkesbury was Darug country, and the area around Cattai Creek and the later Pitt Town was occupied by the Cattai clan of the Darug people.²

The Hawkesbury River, its tributary creeks and its lagoons offered fish, eels, water-birds and marsupials, while the rich alluvial soil along the riverside, which later attracted European farmers, gave the Darug plentiful supplies of yam. The first contacts between Europeans and the Hawkesbury Darug were made by Governor Phillip himself in 1789 and again in 1791. On the second occasion, near South Creek, an Aboriginal 'man of middle age, with an open cheerful countenance, marked with the small pox, ... neither astonished, or terrified at our appearance and number', presented the governor with two stone axes and two spears and shared the party's supper of ship's biscuit and pork.³

There was a substantial, mobile indigenous population in the study area. Seventeen sites identified by a scatter of Aboriginal artefacts have been identified within 100 metres of Longneck Creek and three other isolated artefacts have been found in the same area. Although only three of these sites have been assessed as having potential to reveal information about Aboriginal use of the area, the totality of the archaeological findings shows the sort of use over time of open camp sites close to a reliable food-source which would be expected in the Upper Hawkesbury.⁴

As European settlement increased, pressures on the traditional Aboriginal food supplies mounted. In the early nineteenth century, Governors King, Bligh and Macquarie all endeavoured to preserve friendly relationships with the indigenous people, but on the Hawkesbury, as elsewhere, there were a few settlers who killed native people and fomented retaliation. Nonetheless, most of the settlers in the Pitt Town district had good personal relations with the local Darug and some employed them on their farms.

As settlement became more intense and penetrated further downstream from Pitt Town, introduced diseases greatly affected Aboriginal numbers. The farms increasingly disrupted life-ways of the surviving Aboriginal people and, although the present Scheyville National Park remained open common, closed to new land-grants after 1804, the general movement of Aboriginal people away from the area was tangible. Although Longneck Creek and its wetlands were a source of food, it was a seasonal one, ancillary to the river and the major creeks. David Collins called attention to the way in which the Hawkesbury Aborigines came each April in the 1790s 'to the lagoons, where they subsist on eels which they procure by laying hollow pieces of timber into the water, into which the eels creep, and are easily taken'.⁵ Although Longneck Lagoon as it now appears is largely an artefact of European intervention in the twentieth century, today's large area of water was previously a wetland with the same attractions to Aboriginal people.

Decades of displacement and European diseases had greatly reduced the numbers of Indigenous people and by the 1840s the only Aboriginal camp close to Windsor was at the junction of South Creek and Eastern Creek in the modern area of Vineyard. Further downstream, at Sackville Reach, downstream from Cattai, there was another group of Aboriginal people. But the Anglican minister at Pitt Town reported in 1851 that his parishioners all said 'We see no blacks here now' and that he himself had never met an Aborigine as he travelled around his parish.⁶

The Aboriginal community at Sackville continued and in 1889 a reserve of 180 acres [72 hectares] on the north side of Cumberland and Kent Reaches, opposite Sackville North, was dedicated to their use. But upstream, there was no consistent Aboriginal presence: an attempt by the government in 1895 to

² Kohen, J Blacktown 1993, 9-10, 21.

³ Tench, W 1779, 229-30.

⁴ Dallas M et al 1991.

⁵ Collins D, *in* . B.H. Fletcher, 1975, 462-3.

⁶ BrookJ 1999, 14-16.

establish an alternative reserve at Wilberforce, across the Hawkesbury from Pitt Town, failed because the Aboriginal people preferred to stay at Sackville.⁷ All the artefact scatters on open camp sites at Scheyville can be assumed to date from a period either before or only shortly after European settlement.

2.2 Common Grazing: Nelson or Pitt Town Common The Common of Pasture, 1804 to 1893

Since Governor Phillip's explorations of 1789, the Hawkesbury flood plain had been known to contain rich arable land and plenty of good grazing back from the river. Because the river valley was remote from the policed areas of the penal settlements in Sydney and Parramatta, no farms were established there until 1794. An increasing population and an increasing number of time-expired convicts had encouraged Lieutenant-Governor Grose to open up the area along the reaches later known as Argyle, Windsor, Wilberforce, York and Canning, between the later towns of Windsor and Pitt Town. During the course of 1794, 72 families, almost all headed by an ex-convict, took up small farms on the flood-plain close to the Hawkesbury River, to South Creek and to McKenzies Creek. Most of these farmers, and those who steadily joined them over the next decade, worked hard to clear the land, grew wheat and maize for themselves and for the Sydney market and ran some stock, initially almost exclusively pigs. Despite frequent floods, and the consequent loss of seed-corn and pigs, the early settlers made the Hawkesbury the granary of the colony in the early nineteenth century.⁸

The small area available (characteristically only 30 acres [12 hectares] around Pitt Town) created a problem for the relatively impoverished farmers. Wheat and maize, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, were highly desirable, but the small farmers had the double problem of finding the money to buy stock and, having acquired stock, to have sufficient land to graze them. Governor King recognised that more fresh meat was essential for the growing colony and that, as a corollary, more livestock was needed. In 1802 only two of the Pitt Town or Cattai settlers had any cattle at all: both the magistrate Thomas Arndell and an ex-convict at Pitt Town had one cow and two draught-oxen each. In general pigs were still the only livestock on this part of the Hawkesbury.⁹

In response to this situation in 1802 Governor King initiated a policy of loaning government cattle, sheep and pigs to deserving small settlers, specifically as breeding stock to build up their own herds and flocks.¹⁰ As he told Lord Hobart in August 1804 however:

To feed this increasing stock requires pasturage. To give all two or three hundred acres each would soon alienate all the disposable land adjacent to the settlers, and to give particular people three or four hundred acres each in places of their own selection would soon reduce the small farmer to sell his farm and stock, because he cannot feed them, to the person who can command money or its worth.¹¹

The answer was to designate appropriate areas of remaining Crown land to common use for pasturage. There were already such areas laid aside for government-owned stock. In 1804 the governor announced that there were to be new, substantial areas laid aside for ordinary emancipist farmers of at least seven years standing:

Whereas I have deemed it essential for the present and future prosperity of this colony and the inhabitants thereof that every facility should be afforded to all description of settlers and cultivators being free men and holding land by grant under the crown or by lease for more than seven years to rear and maintain cattle and other stock by allotting in the several districts

⁷ Brook, *Shut out from the World*, 22, 32.

⁸ Jan Barkley Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, Berowra Heights, forthcoming 2005.

⁹ Information from research by Jan Barkley Jack for PhD thesis in progress.

¹⁰ *Historical Records of NSW*, IV 802-3.

¹¹ *Historical Records of NSW*, V 422.

*portions of ground as common land for use of the settlers and cultivators as above in the respective districts.*¹²

Accordingly on 11 August 1804 King issued a government order creating six commons, including three on the Hawkesbury, in Nelson district, Richmond Hill district and Phillip district. The Nelson Common, later known as Pitt Town Common but also, confusingly, as Richmond Common (which is an error on an 1830s map)¹³ and briefly as Mulgrave Place Common,¹⁴ occupied the area, and more, of the present Scheyville National Park. Its western boundary was virtually straight, along what became Old Stock Route Road, north from the main road now known as Old Hawkesbury Road, but deviating around the backs of the farms on the northern stretch of Canning Reach before terminating at Cattai Creek. In 1804 the new common was almost triangular, with its point on Cattai Creek, and contained 5 650 acres [2 260 hectares] but in 1805 an additional inverted triangle of 3 300 acres [1 320 hectares] was added to the east, so that the final shape of Nelson Common was a long rectangle bounded on the east by the later Boundary Road, on the west by Old Stock Route Road, to the north by Cattai Creek and to the south by Old Hawkesbury Road. The only deviations from a simple rectangle were the wiggles around the Canning Reach farms, the undulations of Cattai Creek itself and the sharp bend in Old Hawkesbury Road at what is now Latona Avenue.¹⁵ (Figure 3)

The creation of Nelson Common in 1804 had the very important effect of defining the shape and size of the settlement named Pitt Town by Macquarie in 1810. The eastern edge of the grants already made by August 1804 delimited the area. But the well-established farmers there were now given the opportunity of lawfully grazing their increasing number of stock on the flood-free, uncleared bush immediately to the east. The common land, expanded in 1805 to 8 950 acres [3 580 hectares], was no longer available for private ownership, until the policy was changed in 1889 and part was sold in 1893.¹⁶ As a result, not only were the opportunities for stock-raising in Pitt Town's hinterland enhanced, but also, as an unwitting corollary, large areas of Cumberland woodland were preserved from intensive agricultural or residential development for a very long time, and some of it permanently. (Figure 4)

Rules for the use of the Common were promulgated in the *Sydney Gazette* in January 1805. There were three local trustees, Andrew Thompson, Thomas Bigger and Thomas Tyler. Thompson was an ex-convict who had become a major landholder on the Hawkesbury and a significant merchant and ship-builder.¹⁷ Dr Thomas Arndell, who owned the Cattai estate just north of the Common and was one of the few cattle-owners in the district, became a Trustee in 1805 and it was into his hands that the Common was entrusted in its enlarged form in December 1805.¹⁸

The use of the Common followed age-old custom in Britain. In 1805 the Judge Advocate in Sydney, Richard Atkins, issued an epitome of the English law of Commons of Pasture:

Commonable beasts are either beasts of the plough, or such as manure the ground...but this right may extend to other beasts, ... such as hogs, goats, sheep, &c. or the like, which neither plough or manure the land....

The Commoner cannot use Common but with his own proper cattle; but he may borrow other cattle, and common with them, for by the loan they are in a manner made his own cattle.

¹² Land and Property Information, Grants and Leases of Land vol.3: February 1800 to April 1809, p.164.

¹³ State Records NSW, AO Maps 48, 342, 26073.

¹⁴ P. Bemis, Survey of Mulgrave Place Common, 1835, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW.

¹⁵ *Historical Records of NSW*, V 415; *Sydney Gazette*, 22 December 1805, p.1 col.b; J. Burr and G. Ballisat, *Plan of the Allotments of Ground granted from the Crown in New South Wales*, London 1814.

¹⁶ Julie Marler and Nicola Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct, Scheyville National Park', Conservation Management Plan, thesis for Master of Heritage Conservation, University of Sydney, 2002, 2.2; information from research by Jan Barkley Jack for PhD thesis in progress.

¹⁷ *Sydney Gazette*, 20 January 1805, p.1 col.a.

¹⁸ *Sydney Gazette*, 22 December 1805, p.1 col.b.

The King, through his colonial government, as lord of the manor, may allow the cattle of strangers onto the Common, as long as he does not deprive Commoners of their rights. The government may not 'dig pits for gravel or coal' on the Common, a useful safeguard for the Commoners, who in turn are not allowed to cut the bush or dig trenches (though both of these provisions were dishonoured). If any Commoner puts a fence around part of the Common or builds anything on it, all the other Commoners are entitled to take the offender to court.¹⁹

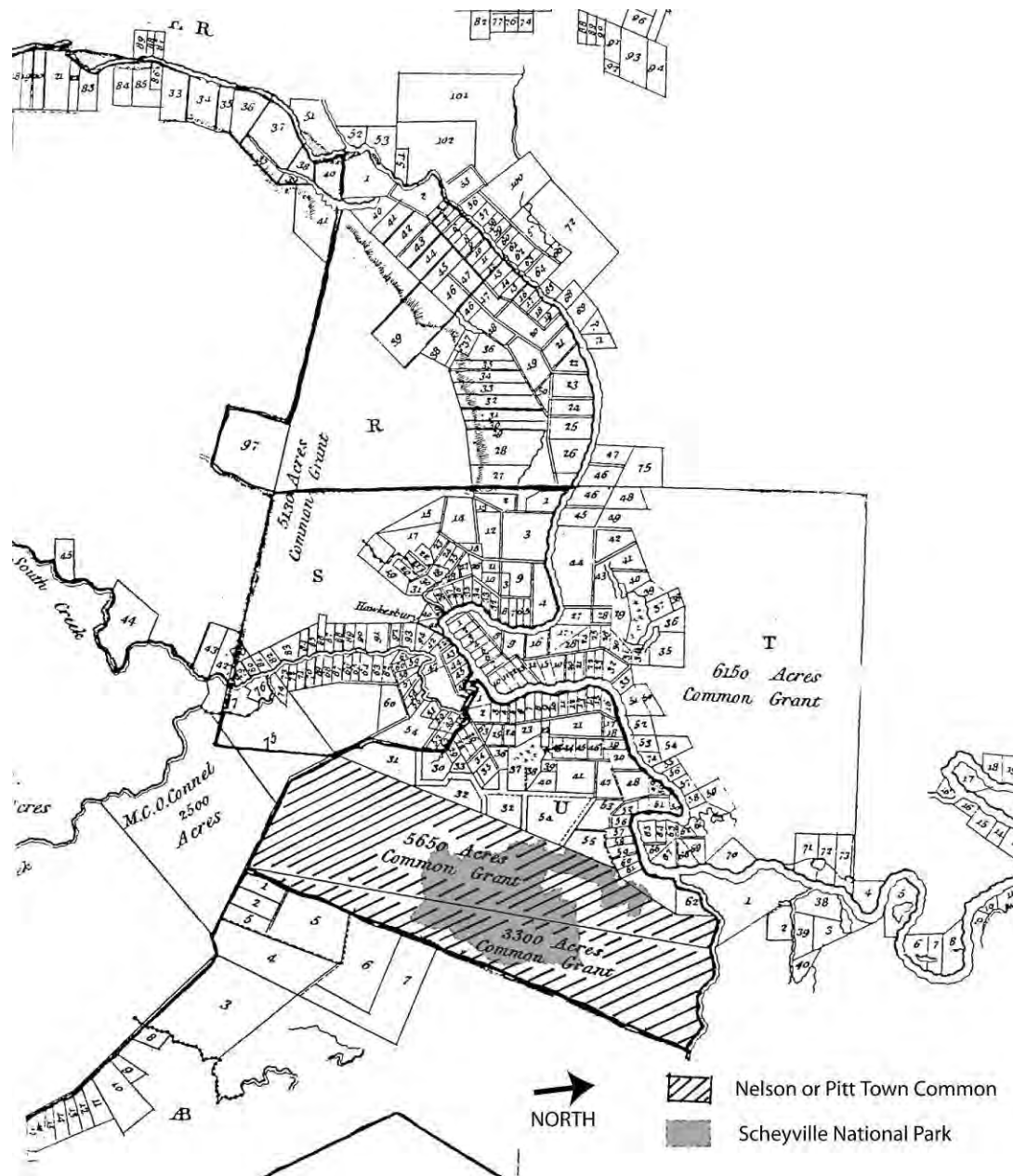


Figure 3

Nelson/Pitt Town Common in 1812

J. Burr and G. Ballisat, Plan of the Allotments of Ground Granted from the Crown in New South Wales, printed 1814

¹⁹ Sydney Gazette, 20 January 1805, p.1 col.a,b,c.



Figure 4
Nelson/Pitt Town Common in 1883
misnamed as Richmond Common

State Records NSW, AO map 26073

These rules of 1805 established the way in which Nelson Common was used for most of the nineteenth century. Although one of the settlers at Ebenezer, Owen Cavanough, was a lessee on the Common in 1835, when it was known as Mulgrave Place Common, this seems to have been unusual,²⁰ while a claim by Sarah Bartlams to 25 acres on the north-west part of the Common was disallowed in 1850.²¹

Under Governor Bligh, a road suitable for vehicles was developed in 1806-7 through the middle of the Common. The road is now known as Old Pitt Town Road. This road connected two of Bligh's properties, Copenhagen on the Windsor Road at Box Hill and the model farm called Blighton which the governor created on the slopes above the Hawkesbury near the future village of Pitt Town.²² Although conceived primarily as a convenience for Bligh in 1806, this route, which runs on flood-free land, has remained a valuable all-weather route to Pitt Town and today forms the southern boundary of much of Scheyville National Park, although part of the Park lies on the southern side of the road.

The road leading from Pitt Town to Cattai did not originally run along the boundary of the grants on Canning Reach, so throughout the nineteenth century intruded into the Common for about a kilometre near Longneck Lagoon before swinging away north-west to cross Cattai Creek.²³ The road alignment changed after the sub-division of Common land in 1893 and it does not run through today's National Park at all, although opposite the north end of Longneck Lagoon it is the present boundary (Figure 6). All other roads running through the National Park post-date the Common.

At the end of 1810, Governor Macquarie established five towns in the Hawkesbury area to provide places of security on ridges for the farmers on the flood-vulnerable plain below. The sites of these towns, Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town and Castlereagh, were all surveyed early in 1811. The site selected for Pitt Town probably lay within the Common, on the east side of Old Stock Route Road just north of the general cemetery which was dedicated in 1895 and is marked on current maps. This site for the town proved unpopular with the local farmers, because it was too far away from the ridge-line looking down on Pitt Town Bottoms and their resistance was so effective that Macquarie in 1815 relocated Pitt Town to its present position. Little is known about the use of the original site between 1811 and 1815 and it is unlikely that any buildings were erected, but its likely location within the present National Park is of significance and offers some archaeological potential.²⁴

Governor Macquarie was aware that stock grazing on unfenced common land could do damage on neighbouring farms if they were not adequately fenced, so in 1881 he urged settlers such as those along the western edge of Nelson Common to fence off at least that part of their land which lay adjacent to the general pasture.²⁵

It is likely that the entire 8,950 acres of Nelson Common remained unfenced, both on the periphery and internally, since the onus was on neighbouring farmers to ensure that their farms were secure. The vesting of the land in trustees continued, but after the Windsor Municipal Council was formed in 1871, the trustees were appointed on the recommendation of the Council. The first trustees, appointed in 1874 under this arrangement for what was now known as Pitt Town Common, were long-established identities along the river, Thomas Chaseling, C.W. May and William Bligh Johnston.²⁶ The Council nominations were in turn the result of an election held at a meeting of the Commoners.²⁷

²⁰ Bemis, Survey of Mulgrave Place Common, 1835, Mitchell Library.

²¹ State Records NSW, AO Maps 342, 26703.

²² D.G. Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey: Up the Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills*, Sydney 1986, 41; Jan Barkley and Michelle Nichols, *Hawkesbury 1794-1994: the First 200 Years of the Second Colonisation*, Windsor 1994, 58.

²³ State Records NSW, AO Maps 264, 342, 26073; for the changes after 1893, see map of Pitt Town parish, 7th ed. 1967, where they are particularly clear.

²⁴ Barkley and Nichols, *Hawkesbury 1794-1994*, 58-9, 61.

²⁵ *Sydney Gazette*, 21 September 1811, p.1.col.a.

²⁶ James Steele, *Early Days of Windsor, N.S. Wales*, Sydney 1916, 16.

²⁷ Diary of Daniel Smallwood for 1879-1880, in private ownership, 21 January 1880, from transcript by Jan Barkley.

A time-honoured use of common-land was for gathering fallen timber as firewood, but there was extensive felling of the best timber for building houses, outbuildings and fences, for ship-building and for furniture-making.²⁸ Dr Roseby bemoaned in 1896, just after the Common had been closed, that:

*The timber left on it by the residents around who used it as a common was only good for firewood, the best having been cleared away before.*²⁹

A glimpse of how the best had 'been cleared away' is given in the diary of William Grono, senior, a shipbuilder at Pitt Town, in November 1865:

*We Went in the bush to Git TimBers we got Two peses to Make foor runen Timbers And three top Timbers And We Got Them Ome [home].*³⁰

Nothing seems to be known in detail of the way in which Pitt Town Common was administered during the nineteenth century, although the diary of Daniel Smallwood, who had use of the Common, gives plenty of evidence that Commoners were grazing horses and cattle in the 1880s, especially around Longneck Creek where the water supply was good.³¹ But the St Albans Common, regularised by Governor Fitzroy in 1853 and still remaining in use today, gives a useful parallel. The trustees at St Albans, in the twenty-first as in the nineteenth century, carefully apportion the number of stock which each local landholder entitled to rights of common may graze there and there are periodic meetings of the Commoners to discuss matters of common concern.³² It is likely that Pitt Town Common was a similar focus of community interest and decision-making throughout the nineteenth century.

Extractive Industry on the Common

Although the official terms of Common rights precluded either the government or the Commoners from digging 'pits for gravel or coal',³³ the quarrying of building-stone was apparently being carried out on a commercial scale by the mid-nineteenth century. St James' Anglican church in Pitt Town was built in this stone in 1857 and the later Victorian stone homes in Pitt Town, such as Bona Vista in 1889, are said also to made of blocks quarried on the Common.³⁴ The quarry continued to be used after the Common was decommissioned and stone from it was used for the construction of the new Cattai Creek bridge and parts of Cattai Road in the 1920s. Photographs survive of stone extraction from its principal face along with the nearby stone-crusher in 1927.³⁵ It remains a significant feature of the Longneck Lagoon Reserve, now part of the National Park and within the study area.

By contrast to stone-quarrying, the extraction of gravel, specifically forbidden in the days of the Common, seems to have begun only after sub-division began in the 1890s and Gravel Pits Road, beginning at the south end of the general cemetery, led eastwards to an extraction area just beyond the junction with Avondale Road.³⁶

²⁸ The Grono family were prominent early shipbuilders and model-makers who had their farms and shipyard close to the Common, where they would have had Commoners' rights: Grono-Books Association, *Two Hawkesbury Sailors: an Illustrated History of Capt. John Grono and Capt. Alexander Books*, Richmond 1984.

²⁹ Thomas Roseby's evidence, 'Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on the Pitt Town Settlement', *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 774.

³⁰ Jan Barkley Jack, 'Early Boat Building on the Upper Hawkesbury River', in J.P. Powell, ed, *Cross Currents: Historical Studies of the Hawkesbury*, Berowra Heights 1997, 53-4.

³¹ Diary of Daniel Smallwood for 1879-1880, in private ownership, from transcript by Jan Barkley.

³² R.I. Jack, *Exploring the Hawkesbury*, 2nd ed., Kenthurst 1990, 42.

³³ *Sydney Gazette*, 20 January 1805, p.1 col.a,b,c.

³⁴ Rex and Linda Stubbs, ed., for Hawkesbury-Hills Airport Protest Committee, "Sydney's Second International Airport": *Heritage Report*, Pitt Town 1984, 15.

³⁵ Government Printer's Office videodisk 1, 02734, 13619, Mitchell Library; information from Ted Eggleton to Jan Barkley, 1998

³⁶ Map of Pitt Town parish, 7th ed. 1967.

2.3 Pitt Town Village Settlement, 1893 to 1896

Cooperative Experiment

In 1889 the Minister for Lands announced that part of Pitt Town Common would be sold as small rural blocks. Despite opposition from local farmers, who valued their Commoners' rights, a government survey was done in 1893, resulting in the eventual sale of properties along all but the most northerly stretch of Boundary Road, the eastern side of the old Common, and right across to Old Stock Route Road in the northern and southern sectors of the Common. Four allotments were also available fronting onto Cattai Creek at the far north-west end of the Common.³⁷

In response to the indignation about the loss of Common land, this process of sub-division was modified to leave an area of temporary Common on the site of Macquarie's original Pitt Town, on the east side of Old Stock Route Road, to the north and east of the cemetery reserve. The temporary Common was declared on 4 August 1894, as reserve 21144, while the general cemetery was dedicated in November of the following year, 1895.³⁸ A further, larger area was set aside also as temporary Common at the end of 1902. This lay outside the present National Park, at the north-east end of the original Common, where Mitchell Park was created in 1958.³⁹ More significantly, in 1893, the central portion of the old Common, as far as Cattai Road (now partly Midson and partly Scheyville Roads) in the east and Old Stock Route Road in the west, with the southern boundary at Saunders Road, was reserved as the Pitt Town Village Settlement, often known colloquially as the Cooperative Farm.⁴⁰ The total area was 2153 acres [860 hectares]. (Figure 5)

Prompted by the depression, the concept of the Village Settlement was to supply a means of livelihood for unemployed men and their families. A similar Settlement was opened at much the same time at Wilberforce across the Hawkesbury and there was some rivalry between the two establishments.⁴¹ The Pitt Town site had been recommended by John Thompson, the foundation Principal of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Richmond (itself founded on the virgin lands of Ham Common in 1891), but there was some justifiable controversy about the suitability of the Pitt Town land for agriculture, particularly if there was no provision for irrigation. To enhance the water supply, the settlers constructed three dams on Longneck Creek and sank a deep well, but 40 acres [16 hectares] were also added to the Settlement, because this area had lagoons of permanent fresh water.⁴²

The horticulturist Frederick Turner contributed a long, first-hand account of the early days of the Settlement to the *Town and Country Journal* in March 1894.⁴³ He described the new village area, which was on the high land south of the midpoint of Dormitory Hill Road and to the south of the small tributary creek:

The village is laid out on a simple uniform design. The settlers' temporary huts, which are made of roughly hewn timber and roofed with bark after the manner of bush dwellings [these had quickly superseded the initial tents], are built on separate allotments, each measuring 50 ft by 250 ft. Some of the allotments are fenced, and both vegetables and flowers are growing in the enclosures. On one of the slopes below the settlers' dwellings four acres of land have been securely fenced in, and devoted to vegetable growing.

The vegetables grown included peas, beans, cabbages and potatoes, growing on virgin soil. The timber houses had replaced some initial temporary tents and were themselves supplemented by brick buildings once a brick kiln was constructed on site.

³⁷ Map of Pitt Town parish, co. Cumberland, 1925 ed., surveyed 1922: for the opposition, see 'Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on the Pitt Town Settlement', *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 752.

³⁸ Map of Pitt Town parish, 7th ed. 1967; Land & Property Information, plan R 21144.

³⁹ Map of Pitt Town parish, 6th ed, 1925; 7th ed. 1967; Land & Property Information, plan R 43357.

⁴⁰ Survey of Pitt Town Co-operative Farm, 10 October 1893, State Records, NSW, reproduced in Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.4.

⁴¹ *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 752. There was also a co-operative farm set up at Bega at this time.

⁴² *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 751-2.

⁴³ F. Turner, 'Pitt Town Village Settlement', *Town and Country Journal*, 3 March 1894, 28.

Below the vegetable garden a new area was cleared and stumped to receive more potatoes, while a paddock of some 100 acres [40 hectares], enclosed with chock-and-log fences, had largely been cleared, ploughed and harrowed by March 1894, with 10 acres [4 hectares] bearing maize and sorghum and 5 acres [2 hectares] containing yet more potatoes.

Other paddocks had been marked out with chock-and-log fences (although post-and rail was also employed), but were not yet under cultivation. In most of these paddocks native timber was still standing, though it was largely regrowth after a century of logging by the Pitt Town settlers. It may not have been virgin forest, but Turner sensibly advised against indiscriminate clearing of the trees, so that clumps would not only be 'a pleasing feature in the landscape', but also 'provide shelter for stock against the heat of summer and the cold of winter'. The grasses introduced into the 100-acre cleared paddock and making a 'splendid sward' in 1894 were Blue grass (*Andropogon affinis*); Slender spikes (*Eragrostis leptostachys*); Wallaby grass (*Danthonia semiannularis*); and Couch grass (*Cynodon dactylon*).⁴⁴

The Settlement had been planned to house 100 families, totalling 500 people, under the control of a government-appointed Board of Control which had a 28-year lease of the land. By February 1894 there were 451 residents: each head of household was required to work for eight hours a day on the common land of the Settlement, but also to clear and maintain his own small-holding of 2 or 3 acres on which he and his family were expected to raise vegetables for their own consumption. No money changed hands and the families were given a weekly ration.

⁴⁴ *Town and Country Journal*, 3 March 1894, 28.

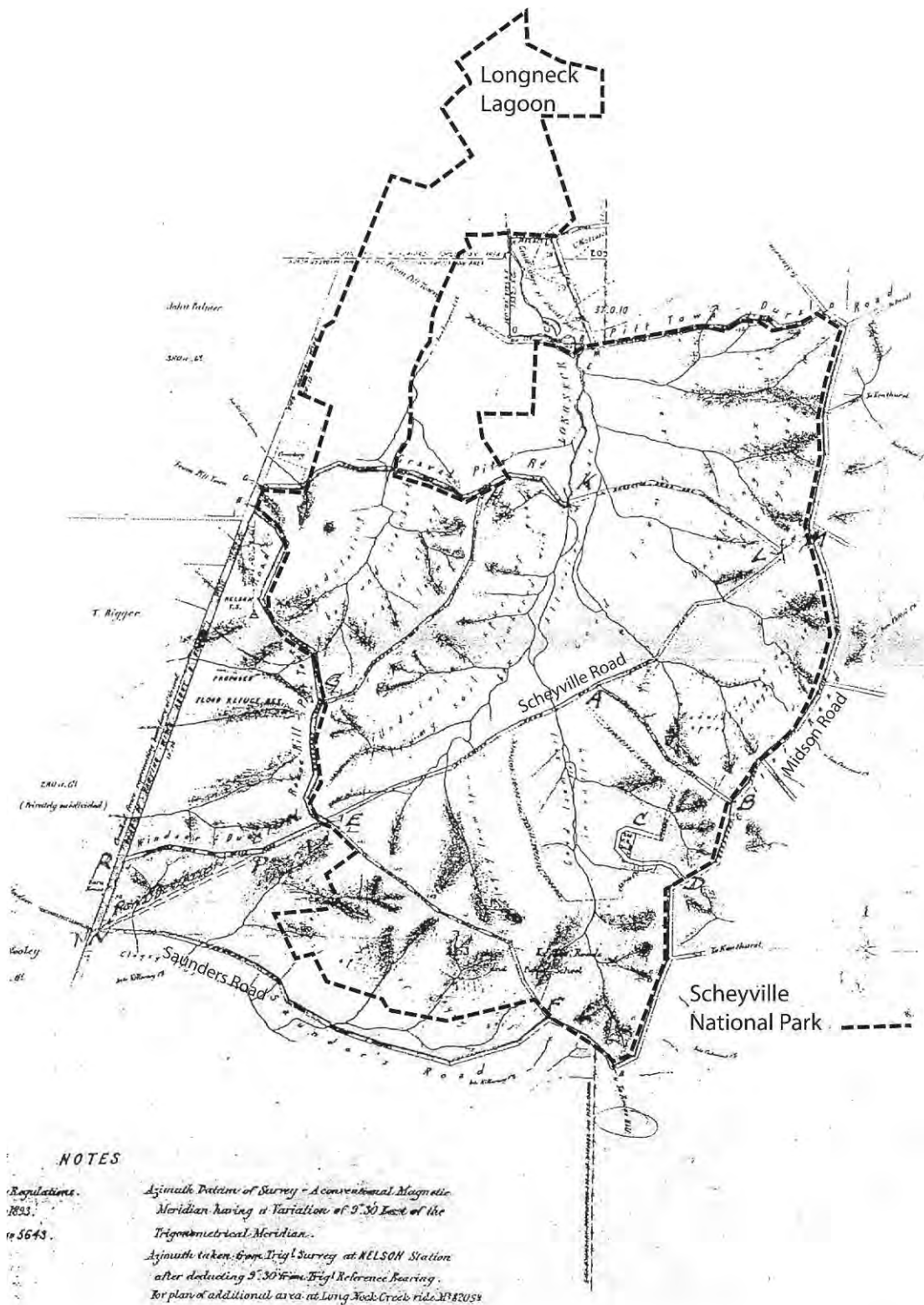


Figure 5
Pitt Town Village Settlement, 1893. The settlement houses are in the area marked C (a tree marked by surveyors in 1936)

State Records NSW, 5/3477/ file 29057

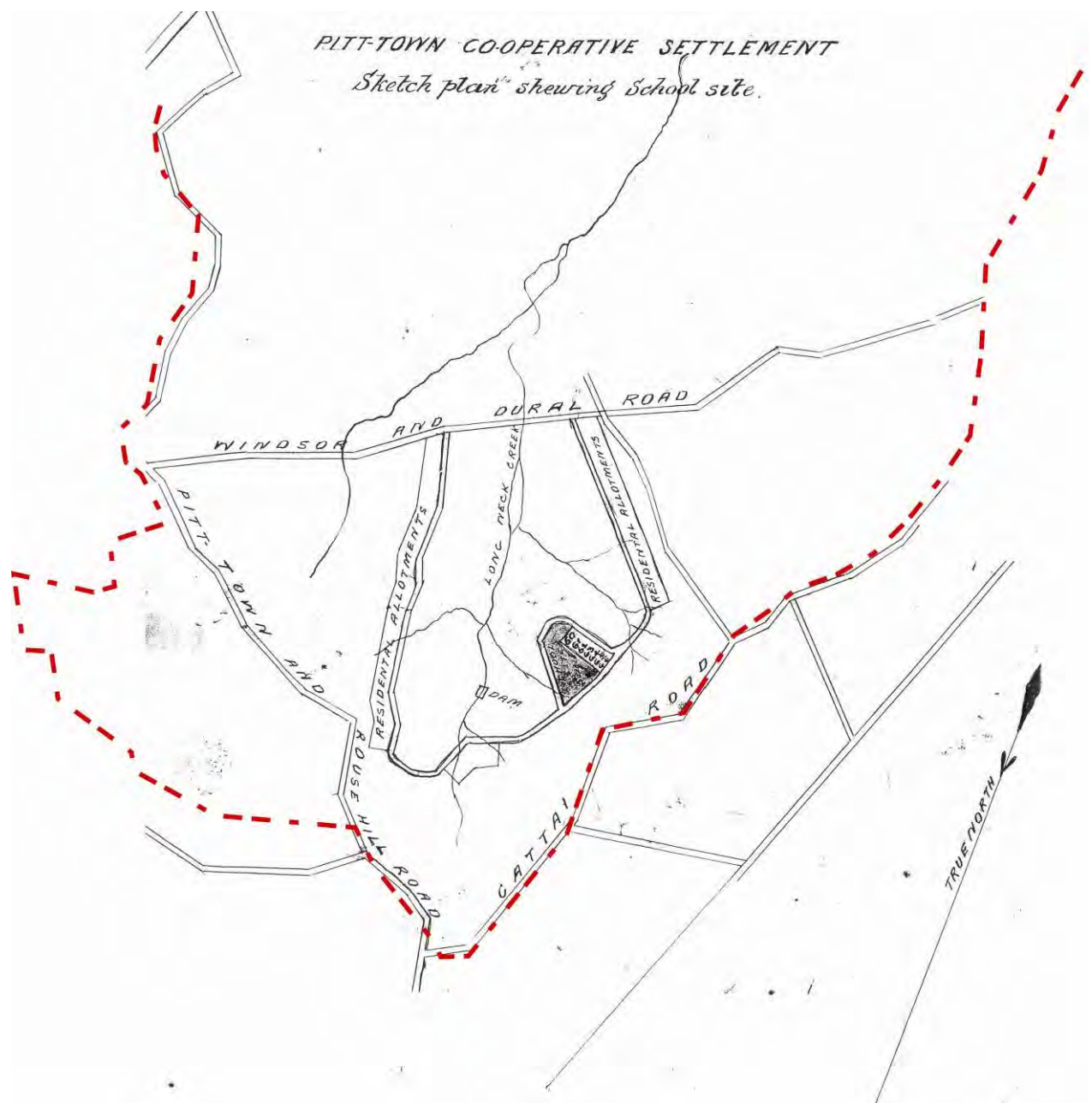


Figure 6
Pitt Town Village Settlement and school site, 1894. Note that Cattai Road is now known as the Midson Road.

State Records NSW, 5/17 356.2, 6 January 1894

As well as working in the common fields and constructing their own residences in a great curve referred to as the horse-shoe, the men had to build common utilities. Buildings, other than nearly 100 private residences, known to have been erected or partially completed are:

1. Stables for horses: in addition to bullocks some horses had been available since the beginning of the Settlement.⁴⁵

2. Sawmill, which was said to be obsolete the day it opened in 1894: in the latter period of the Settlement little was done except to collect firewood, which was cut at the mill.⁴⁶ (Figure 7)

3. Dairy, established in 1894, at the height of the Settlement's activity.⁴⁷

4. Blacksmith's and wheelwright's shop: two lathes were bought in August 1894 for use in a wheelwright's shop. This would almost certainly be also the blacksmith's shop which had been necessary since the beginning of the Settlement.⁴⁸

5. Church: one of the settlers, William Musto, said opaquely in 1896 'There is a certain amount of labour expended in building a church', but Benjamin Backhouse, MLA, who was Chairman of the Board of Control, said at the same Parliamentary inquiry that 'There was a little Catholic church proposed, and a design was prepared ... but it was not carried out'.⁴⁹ According to the local newspaper of 6 January 1894, however, a small church designed like a log hut, paid for by the Catholic priest in Windsor, had already been constructed at the end of 1893.⁵⁰ There is no evidence of a church of any other denomination, although the Catholics constituted only a minority element in the community of parents.⁵¹

6. Hall: this was a substantial but incomplete brick building, 60 feet by 30 feet, with walls 14 inches thick which in 1896 were still only 6 feet high.⁵² This is presumably the same building as the School of Arts which was under construction in July 1894: the application for a government grant necessary for its completion was rejected.⁵³

7. Public School: one objective of the well-meaning endeavour was to provide education for children coming from urban poverty with their parents and a schoolhouse was provided by the Board of Instruction in 1893. For the history of this school, see below 3.2.

8. Superintendent's cottage: this was built at the cost of £40 and was quite separate of the schoolhouse, which was in use as a school until mid-1896.⁵⁴

9. Marquee reading-room: in the middle of the horse-shoe of the residential area there was a commodious canvas tent, which was intended as a place for general reading after the toil of the day. This remained long after settlers ceased to live in improvised tents and served as a concert hall and a dance venue, although Dr Roseby looked on it, or its possible alternative, the schoolhouse after hours, as a place for 'mental improvement'.⁵⁵

⁴⁵ *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 763; Rex and Linda Stubbs, *A History of Scheyville*, Windsor 1983, 10.

⁴⁶ *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 756, 764.

⁴⁷ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 13.

⁴⁸ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 14.

⁴⁹ *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 755, 769.

⁵⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 6 January 1894; Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 11.

⁵¹ State Records NSW, School files, 5/17356.2, 20 October 1893.

⁵² *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 769.

⁵³ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 13.

⁵⁴ *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 765.

⁵⁵ State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, 6 December 1893, 19 March 1894.

As well as timber, brick was increasingly used for building and a clay-pit and brick-kiln were in operation by the latter part of 1894.⁵⁶ Their location is not precisely known.

The experiment failed after three years. The land was generally agreed to be suitable only for orchard-trees, but fruit-trees took time to grow and bear. Firewood gathering brought in very little return. Despite the ban on gambling and alcohol (effective except in the case of two of the Superintendents), and despite the settlers' hard work, there were fundamental flaws in the Pitt Town scheme. The Revd Dr Thomas Roseby, the distinguished Congregationalist minister at Marrickville,⁵⁷ and one-time member of the Board of Control, analysed the failure in very Victorian, but astute, terms:

An experiment carried on with men on the lowest social grade, with no means, and no social coherence, could only be expected to succeed under specially favourable conditions – namely, good land, Governmental and public sympathy, and steady and adequate help. All these conditions were wanting.

He was censorious about the Board of which he had been a founding member:

There was, of course, an element of co-operation in the scheme, but the scheme was rather that of a mild despotism than of socialism ... The Board had absolute control.

And Roseby firmly denied that the failure of the Settlement was due 'to any inherent weakness of socialism, for it was not really a socialistic experiment'.⁵⁸

The local newspaper on 13 June 1896 regretted the failure and blamed it on the choice of settlers, who were, it claimed, selected with no regard to the possession of the skills needed 'to transform a howling wilderness into a prolific garden', and this was exacerbated by bickering among the men who, the paper believed, had 'fought and wrangled together with a vigour, worthy of a better cause'.⁵⁹ This judgment on the people gave too little weight to the imperfections of the place, but seemed to have had general currency.

In 1896 the government abolished the Board of Control, revoked the Settlement reserve but optimistically retained the whole 2195 acres [880 hectares] which the Settlement then occupied, as a Casual Labour Farm.

⁵⁶ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 14.

⁵⁷ Geoffrey Barnes, 'Leaders of Congregationalism 1904-1977: Presidents of the Congregational Union of Australia (and of New Zealand to 1960), 1888-1977', *Church Heritage - Historical Journal of the Uniting Church in Australia*, 15 i, March 2005, 7-8.

⁵⁸ *Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Assembly NSW*, 1896, V 774-5.

⁵⁹ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 13 June 1896.



Figure 7

The sawmill in 1912

W. F. Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville Near Pitt Town, New South Wales, sometimes called the 'Dreadnought' Farm: A Descriptive Account*, Sydney 1912, 262.3.2 The Public School, 1894 to 1896

By October 1893 there were already 230 children in the Settlement, most of them of school age and their parents signed the usual petition to the Board of Public Instruction to erect a school on the crown land. The government rejected the cheap possibility of using the marquee at the Settlement, which was used for social gatherings in the evening, and so specifications for a sizeable schoolhouse were drawn up in December 1893, and the successful tenderers, A.J. Tuckwell and Lewis Kentwell of Castle Hill, completed the white-painted wooden building, on wooden piers, with a galvanised iron roof, in March 1894. Since a student population of almost 200 was anticipated, the school was 70 feet long by 20 feet broad (21.34 by 6.1 metres). There were two brick fireplaces, in the centre of the back wall of each of the two schoolrooms: the two brick chimneys were symmetrically placed and projected above the gabled roof by a little less than a metre. A veranda ran the whole length of the schoolhouse on the same side as the chimneys.⁶⁰ (Figure 8)

⁶⁰ State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, Specifications, 6 December 1893.

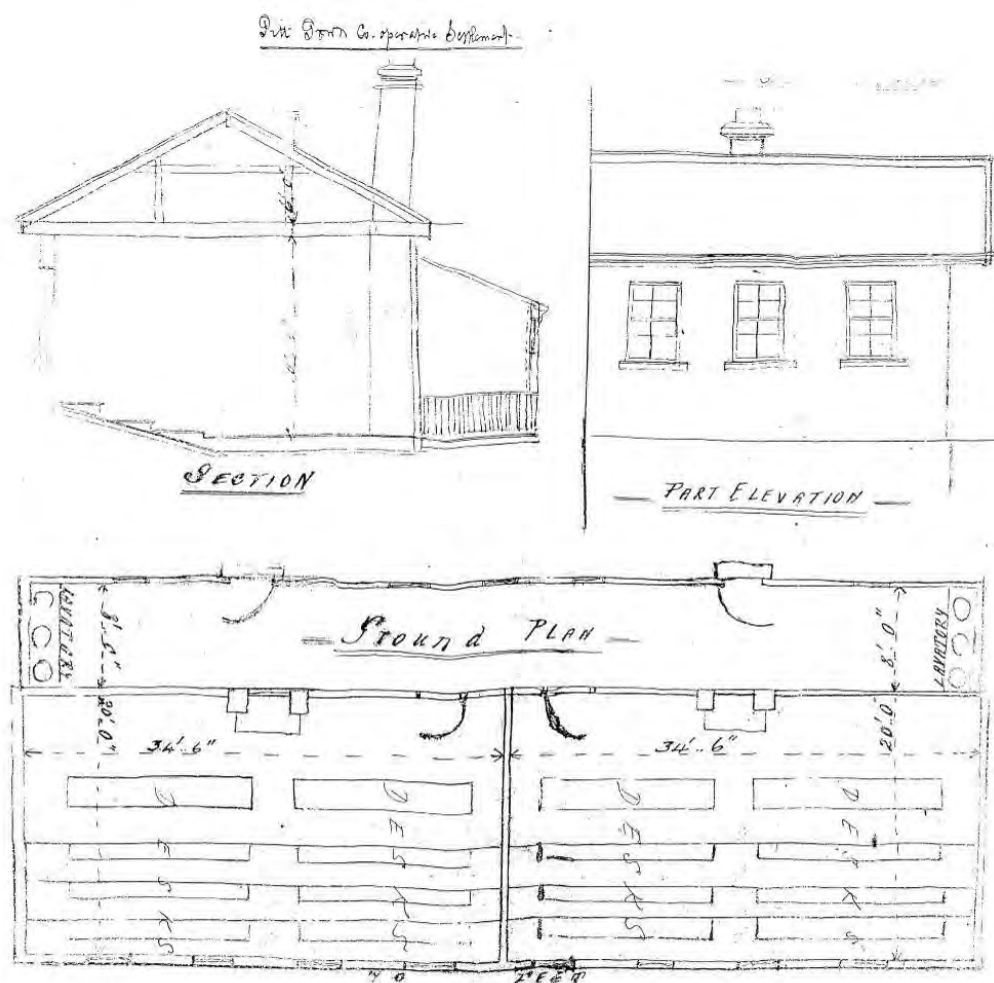


Figure 8
Plan, elevation and section of the schoolhouse at Pitt Town Village Settlement erected in 1894.

State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, 9 January 1894

The original proposal was to have a school reserve of 5 acres [2 hectares], The 3 acres was disallowed however because none of the children had horses and could in any case easily walk to school. The school reserve, no. 20896, which became portion 248 in Pitt Town parish, was therefore limited to 2 acres [0.8 hectare] in June 1894.⁶¹ (Figure 9)

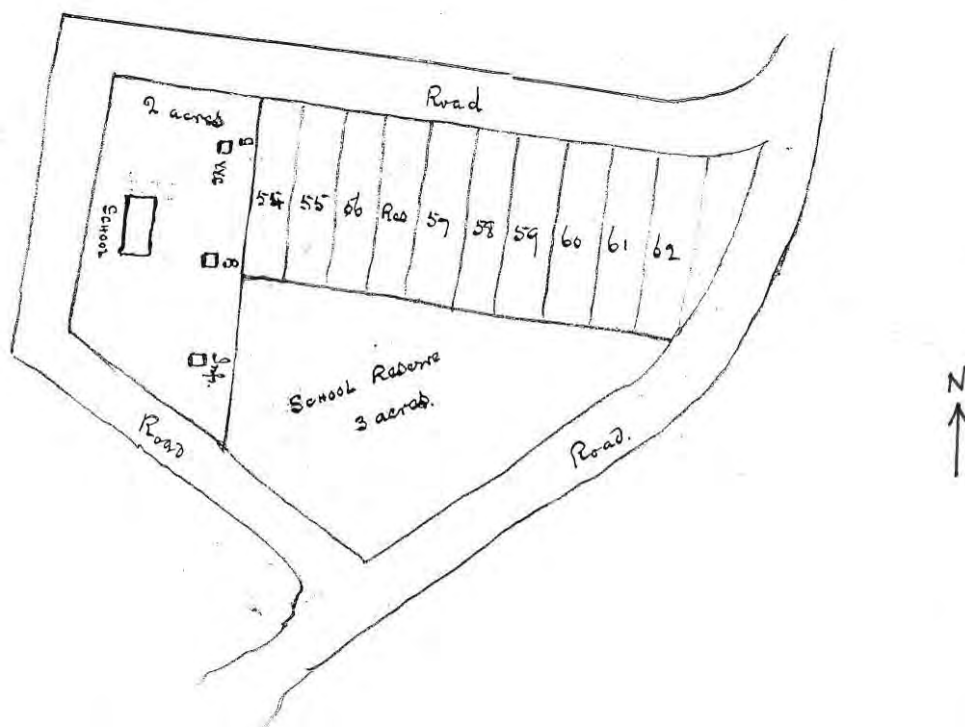


Figure 9

School reserve and houses at Pitt Town Village Settlement, 1893 showing the proposed schoolhouse and three outside toilets (of which only two were built in 1894). The proposed reserve of three acres for horses was not dedicated. State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, October 1893

There were three teachers, headed by Mr A.J. Bennett. There was also regularly an assistant and a pupil-teacher. There was no suitable accommodation for the teachers within the Settlement or indeed anywhere within some 6 kilometres, so they lodged in Windsor. Bennett was obliged to acquire a horse and buggy and he drove the entire teaching staff to school every day at his own expense for the first year, 1894-5. In June 1895, having failed yet again to get a horse-fodder subsidy from the Board of Public Instruction, Bennett succeeded in having the unused portion of the 'skillion' (presumably the veranda) boarded in to provide him with a place to sleep.⁶²

The initial attendance at the school had never been as large as expected. At the end of April 1894 there were 128 enrolments, with an attendance of 109. The maximum enrolment was 160 but from 1895 this declined steadily: there were only 66 children enrolled by December 1895, and only 59 by early 1896, with an average attendance dipping to 36.7 in May 1896. With the future of the Settlement in doubt, the Department decided to close the school and by October 1896 all the furniture, the same twenty long desks and forms, was packed up. In January 1897 it was finally carted off to Windsor Public School for storage.⁶³

⁶¹ State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, 9 December 1893; plan dated October 1893; *NSW Government Gazette*, 1896, III 3917.

⁶² State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, 18 June, 10 October 1894; 18, 19 June 1895.

⁶³ State Records NSW, 5/17356.2, 22 April 1894; 12 December 1895; 30 January, 15 May, 6 October 1896; 19 January 1897.

The schoolhouse remained the property of the successive departments of state responsible for education and portion 248 remained as a separate entity on the Pitt Town parish map. Only on 10 January 1936 was its status as an education reserve finally revoked.⁶⁴

It is possible that the schoolhouse was used as the residence of the farm supervisor, and it is certainly well sited for this purpose. Other buildings from the Settlement period were reused in the subsequent Casual Labour Farm and Dreadnought periods, but the school was in a different situation from all the other buildings, since it was under quite different control. Documentary evidence has not yet been found to explain if, and if so, how, the schoolhouse was converted to a superior residence.

2.4 The Casual Labour Farm, 1896 to 1910, and Farm Training for Australian Boys, 1905 to 1910

The attempt to alleviate unemployment in the Depression of the 1890s by establishing a cooperative farm at Pitt Town had failed comprehensively by 1896. The government continued to be sympathetic to the plight of the unemployed and, despite all the evidence that the old Common land was not very suitable for agriculture, pressed on in June 1896, to establish a Casual Labour Farm, before the Legislative Assembly's Select Committee on the failure of the Settlement even began to have its hearings in October.

The area designated as the Casual Labour Farm was notified on 17 June 1896 and consisted of 2195 acres [880 hectares] extending from the Pitt Town-Dural Road in the north to Saunders Road in the south: on the east it bordered on the backs of the new allotments made available along Boundary Road, following the present Scheyville Road south but branching off down a northern extension of Midson Road (then known as Cattai Road) to intersect with Old Pitt Town Road just east of its junction with the east end of Saunders Road. This is the area of its predecessor, the Pitt Town Settlement.⁶⁵ (Figure 10)

Unlike the cooperative enterprise, the Casual Labour Farm gave an opportunity to unemployed, and often ill men to earn a small wage for a period of three or four months, up to a maximum of £2. When £2 had been earned, the man had to leave. Whereas the Settlement had had 500 men, women and children in 100 families, the Casual Labour Farm had only 70 or 80 men. Furthermore, unlike the Settlement, there was no possibility for a successful member to stay longer than a few months, so there was a rapid turn-over in the Casual Labour Farm. Whereas the Settlement had aspired to wheat and maize, to vegetables in large quantity, and to some stock, including milch-cows, with family homes erected by the families themselves, the people on the Labour Farm largely collected firewood and managed pigs. The collection of firewood had been the dismal end of the Settlement; it was also the unexciting beginning of the Labour Farm.⁶⁶

This continued for six years, when, after a severe bushfire and drought, the management of the Labour Farm introduced dairy cattle, with their corollaries of milking sheds, coolhouse and silo for fodder. This in turn created a need for more training of the casual labour and in 1905 unemployed young men attended a month-long programme at Randwick before moving to Pitt Town where for two more months they gained practical experience in dairying, in caring for hens and pigs and in broader concepts of successful agriculture.⁶⁷

This attempt to equip young city men to take up a career in the country was encouraged by the Immigration League of Australia. This organisation was set up in 1907 by Dr Richard Arthur, a politician and a doctor deeply involved with eugenics. Although from the outset the Immigration League was primarily concerned with promoting the migration of British youth to Australia, its initial activities in 1907 were to advance the conversion of the Pitt Town Casual Labour Farm into a training institution to train

⁶⁴ NSW Government Gazette, 10 January 1936; State Records NSW, Department of Labour and Industry, Scheyville Training Farm files, 5/3477 file 29057; map of Parish of Pitt Town, 7th ed. 1967.

⁶⁵ Map of Pitt Town parish, surveyed 1922; Land & Property Information, plans R 24290, R 24291.

⁶⁶ Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.7.

⁶⁷ Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.7.

young Australians for farm work.⁶⁸ The Vice-President and Secretary of the League, along with a member of the Government Labour Bureau and a journalist visited the farm late in 1907 to see for themselves how the new educational thrust was succeeding. Although there were only five trainees on the farm in November 1907, there was accommodation for 24 or 'at a pinch' 30, since the initial small dormitory housing only twelve boys in 1905 had recently been expanded.⁶⁹ The group of visitors hoped that provision would be made to increase the number to 100. In the subsequent article in *Australian Country Life* a strong contrast was emphasised between the new trainees and the casual labourers:

The lads, who are taken in at 12 years of age and upwards, are thoroughly well looked after and kept entirely separate from the men: so that the statements which have been made to the effect that they are contaminated by the company and example of the men who go to Pitt Town farm are altogether unfounded. Their quarters are roomy and comfortable, with good beds and clean bedding in a large dormitory, at the end of which is the room of the boys' overseer, who exercises a constant supervision of his young charges. All intercourse between the men and boys is strictly forbidden, and any breach of this rule is followed by immediate dismissal. The boys' quarters are on one side of the little valley, in which the farm is situated, and the men's on the other. The food is good, wholesome, and sufficient in quantity – as is evident by the condition of all who go to the farm. ...

While everything is well done, we were more particularly struck with the fact that only such implements and appliances are used as would be found in the ordinary small farm, so that the lads are taught to make the most of everything. ...

*We were pleased to see the silo in use, the cows being at present fed on ensilage with good results. Nothing is more difficult than to drive into the minds of our farmers the virtues of this ancient method of storing fodder against bad seasons.*⁷⁰

The emphasis on silos continued to bear fruit and the two sets of surviving silos are important features of the farm site within the National Park.

The next five years of this more educational regime saw about a tenth of the 2195 acres being cleared again for cultivation, as much of it had been in the days of the Settlement only a Decade before. Training became the key feature and it was renamed the Government Agricultural Training Farm in 1910. With its emphasis on youth and on training, the Pitt Town establishment was an obvious place in 1911 to create a 'Dreadnought' farm under the British immigration scheme.⁷¹

⁶⁸ Geoffrey Sherington, *Journal of Royal Australian Historical Society*, 82, 1996, 4.

⁶⁹ W.F. Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville, near Pitt Town, New South Wales, sometimes called the 'Dreadnought' Farm: a Descriptive Account*, Sydney 1912, 3.

⁷⁰ *Australian Country Life*, 2 December 1907, 30-1. .

⁷¹ Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.13.

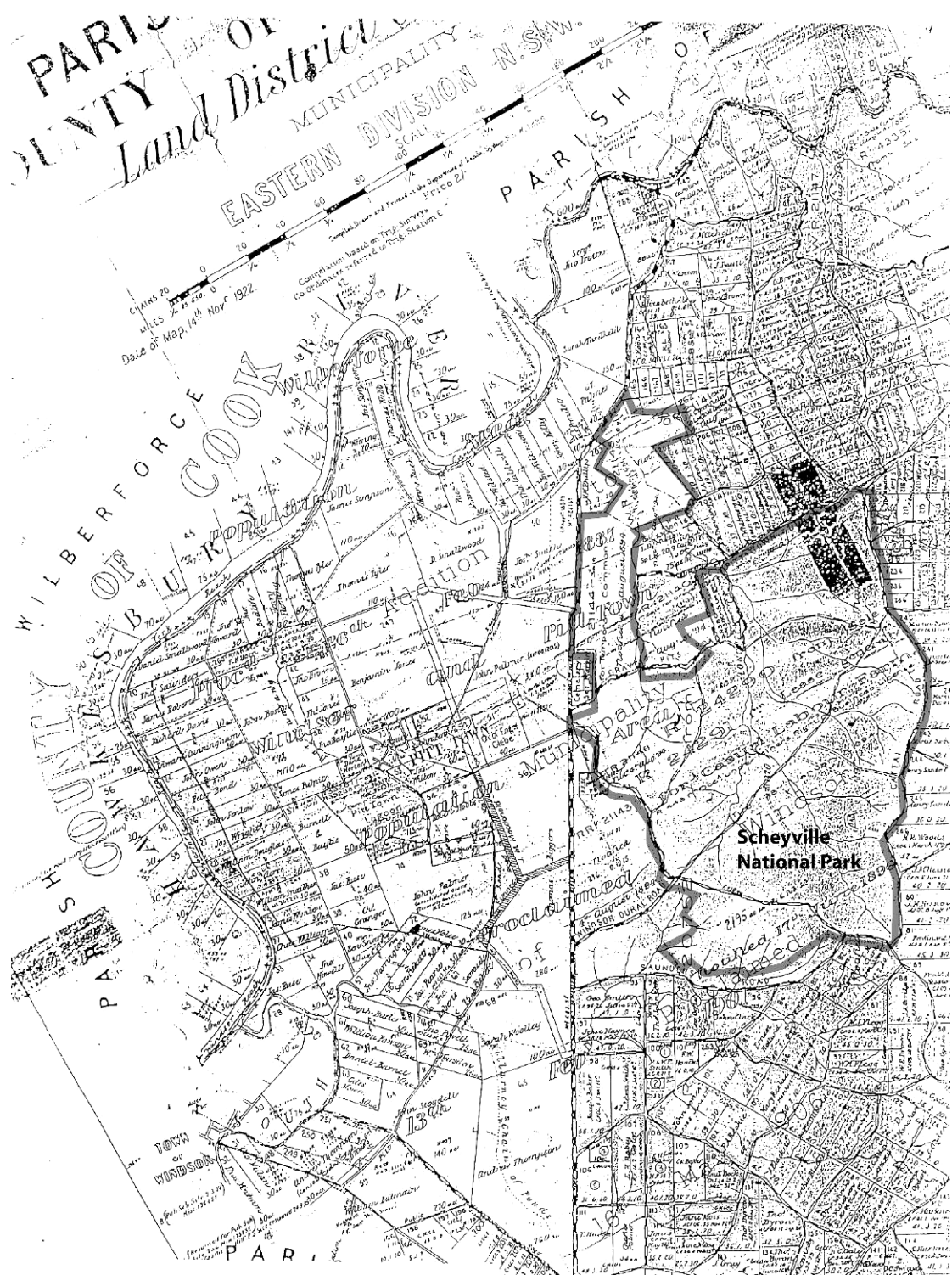


Figure 10
The boundaries of the Casual Labour Farm as gazetted in 1896
Map of Pitt Town parish, 6th ed., surveyed 1922, published 1925

2.5 The Dreadnought Scheme and the Government Training Farm, 1911 to 1939

The Dreadnought Scheme, 1911 to 1915

The policy of the New South Wales government to provide proper residential training for potential young farmers had been initiated at Scheyville from 1905 onwards, as discussed above. The size and significance of the Scheyville training scheme changed markedly in 1911 when the first of the 'Dreadnought' boys arrived at Pitt Town. Although the Immigration League of Australia had been a prime mover in the training of Australian boys at Pitt Town in 1907, and although its founder, Dr Arthur, had visited Britain in 1909 to campaign for a migration programme, British teenage boys aged between 14 and 19 were not brought to Australia to start a new life as farmers until 1911.⁷²

The immigration scheme was called 'Dreadnought' because it was financed from the sum originally raised in Australia to purchase a Dreadnought-class battleship for Great Britain. When the Commonwealth government decided to invest in an Australian navy in 1909, half of the sum raised for the British battleship was converted to establishing the naval college at Jervis Bay and the other half was applied to pay the passages of British youths to Australia to be trained for rural work. This was in response to a perceived need in Australia for an influx of farm-hands to counter the drift of labour to new industries, largely concentrated in Sydney, which were changing the economic face of Australia in the first decades of the twentieth century. This meshed with the concerns of the British government about the possibility of widespread long-term unemployment in Britain, while the policy called 'Empire Settlement' encouraged Britain to send people and investment capital to the dominions, in anticipation of enhancing the sale of British manufactured goods through the Empire and at the same time increasing the agricultural products available for import into a Britain which could not feed itself. Empire Settlement applied to Canada and New Zealand as much as to Australia.⁷³

The Dreadnought Trust in Australia, set up with substantial funds totalling £88,000 from philanthropists such as the store-keeper Sir Samuel Harder and the grazier Sir Samuel McCaughey, administered the programme to offer three-month basic training to British youths in Australia before they went to work on rural properties.

These young assisted immigrants came to New South Wales, at the rate of about twenty a fortnight for many years, interrupted by World War I. By 1915, when the war intervened, 1738 British youths had come to New South Wales under the scheme, most of them to Pitt Town. Of these, 600 had received assistance from the Central Unemployed Body in London, so there was a disproportionate number of working and middle-class boys from the London area who had failed to retain employment there. Those who came under the Dreadnought Trustees received only loans and were expected to repay their passage money in due course.⁷⁴

Although there was an increasing wish in the State Department of Agriculture to offer more extensive training at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, founded in 1891, and at the experimental farms founded in the twentieth century at Grafton, Glen Innes, Cowra and elsewhere, Pitt Town trained the largest number of these young British men.⁷⁵

Between April 1911 and April 1913 1200 youths had passed through Pitt Town.⁷⁶ To accommodate this transient number, the Casual Labour Farm was closed in 1911 and very substantial developments took place to convert the whole 2195 acres into a training farm. A critical role in all this was taken by William F. Schey, who had been the Director of Labour in New South Wales since 1905. His administrative role in the first tentative training scheme for local boys had led to the naming of the farming area of the old Common as Scheyville in 1907. In 1912 the 'Dreadnought' farm was officially renamed 'The

⁷² Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 4-6.

⁷³ Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 2-4.

⁷⁴ Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 4, 10.

⁷⁵ Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 12.

⁷⁶ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 24.

Government Agricultural Training Farms at Scheyville near Pitt Town".⁷⁷ From then on the name Scheyville took primacy over Pitt Town as the location of the successive establishments on the old Common.

It is fortunate that William Schey published so lucid an account of the new training farm as it was in 1912, complete with 24 photographs. Although some of the existing facilities at Scheyville were retained and enhanced, there were also many new buildings. According to Schey, the principal amenities by 1912 were:⁷⁸

1. **Boys' dormitories:** two, each 103 and 35 feet (one of them entirely new), to accommodate c. 50 boys each; weatherboard; warmed in winter; annexe for washing and showering at each end; foreman's room at each end; 10-foot wide veranda back and front. Dormitory Hill Road is named after these huts. (Figure 11)
2. **Reading and writing room:** weatherboard; close to the dormitories, 35 by 15 feet; supply of novels and magazines; fireplace
3. **Games room:** weatherboard; close to the reading and writing room, with facilities for card and board games
4. **Dining-room:** weatherboard; to accommodate c.100; kitchen and cooks' bedrooms in same building; used also as church on Sundays; has a grand piano and is used for concerts and lectures
5. **Laundry**
6. **Box room:** a room used for storage
7. **Stewards' rooms**
8. **Toilet block**
9. **Rifle range:** 'a snug little range' with ammunition free from the military
10. **Quoits pitch:** presumably with clay pits
11. **Cricket and football pitch:** no details given
12. **Swimming-bath:** in a large dam, 'several acres in extent'
13. **Farm manager's residence**
14. **Scheyville Post Office**
15. **Petty officers' quarters:** sitting-room and nine bedrooms
16. **Butcher's shop**
17. **Workshops (4) for blacksmith, wheelwright, saddler and tinsmith**
18. **Sawmill:** with 8 hip horizontal engine and 12 hip. Colonial boiler, sawing firewood

⁷⁷ John R. Powell, *Placenames of the Greater Hawkesbury Region*, Berowra Heights 1994, 107; Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville*.

⁷⁸ Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville*, 7-13.

19. **Broom-making factory:** using millet
20. **Two stores**
21. **Cottage for farm labourers:** originally built for the casual labourers (Figure 12)
22. **Cottage for foreman of orchard:** a three-roomed cottage 'on the brow of the hill'
23. **Stables:** twenty stalls and harness room; 34 draught-horses in all on the farm
24. **Barn:** two-storey
25. **Hay shed:** capacity 100 tonnes
26. **Cart shed and other small implement sheds**
27. **Silos:** in 1912 there were two already in existence, one tubular, the other excavated into the side of the hill (Figures 13-14)

Schey goes on to describe the various farm sections: dairy (350 cattle); piggery (80-100 pigs); sheep (450) and woolshed; poultry (211); new orchard (newly cleared 18 acres [7.2 hectares]), mainly oranges but also lemon and stone fruit; vegetable garden, 2 acres [0.8 hectare], irrigated by spray system. A series of historic images from 1911-1939 are included in Appendix 2. These images show some of the amenities described by Schey in his booklet.

The British boys were expected to complete their training in 13 weeks (Figure 15). Of the 800 who came to Scheyville in the first fifteen months, 746 completed the course. The large majority went on to find employment on farms, especially on the Northern Rivers, and already in 1912 some had taken up land and established their own farms, in turn employing new Dreadnought boys finishing their three months at Scheyville.⁷⁹

World War I intervened in 1914 and the immigration of new Dreadnought boys went into abeyance in 1915. Germans interned from German ships in harbour at Sydney in October 1914 were brought to Scheyville and 87 of them lived there in tents, while the British boys continued to occupy the dormitories.⁸⁰ There is very little information about the German internment period at Scheyville and ongoing research into this area will need to be conducted. The main place for the internment of aliens and prisoners of war during WWI was at Liverpool. The Liverpool or Holsworthy Camp contained 6980 internees, mostly Germans.⁸¹ The *War Precautions Act* 1914, allowed for citizens of enemy countries to be detained for the period of the war⁸² and this explains the German internment at Scheyville.

⁷⁹ Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville*, 27, 29.

⁸⁰ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 26; *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 23 October 1914.

⁸¹ http://www.naa.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/fs171.html.

⁸² *Ibid.*



Figure 11 The Dreadnought boys' dormitories and reading room in 1912
W. F. Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville Near Pitt Town, New South Wales, sometimes called the 'Dreadnought' Farm: A Descriptive Account*, Sydney 1912, 6



THE FARM LABOURERS' COTTAGE.

View looking north west from Officer Training Camp towards Dormitory Hill Road. c1912



PART OF COW YARD SHOWING SILO TO HOLD 150 TONS OF ENSILAGE.

View looking south east from Dormitory Hill Road c1912

Figures 12 and 13: The Farm Labourer's Cottage and part of the cow yard .
W. F. Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville Near Pitt Town, New South Wales, sometimes called the 'Dreadnought' Farm: A Descriptive Account*, Sydney 1912.



DAIRY AND OLD SILO STUDENTS GETTING FEED FOR COWS.

Figure 14

The dairy and old silo in 1912

W. F. Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville Near Pitt Town, New South Wales, sometimes called the 'Dreadnought' Farm: A Descriptive Account*, Sydney 1912, 10



BOYS LEARNING TO PLOUGH AND SOW.

Figure 15

Boys learning to plough and sow

W. F. Schey, *The Government Agricultural Training Farm at Scheyville Near Pitt Town, New South Wales, sometimes called the 'Dreadnought' Farm: A Descriptive Account*, Sydney 1912

Training for Women, 1916 to 1917

The number of boys in training at Scheyville had declined to 30 by September 1915 and most of these wished to enlist in the armed forces. So Estell, the Minister for Labour and Industry announced that Australian women would be trained at Scheyville instead. As the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* proclaimed:

*The call is insistent – for the woman worker, the skilled worker. The nation needs her. She is roused and ready.*⁸³

This was a practical move, for 200 acres [80 hectares] were now under cultivation at Scheyville, as well as 30 acres of orchard, while the broom factory had produced 200 dozen millet brooms in the past year. A labour-force in training was urgently needed and the correspondent in the local newspaper had the foresight to see Scheyville as a more liberal Hawkesbury Agricultural College:

*[Scheyville] could become a technical institute for training in any industry dependent on the land for the production of its raw material. It could have its activities rounded off by making it the site for a women's college of domestic science on the lines now demanded by modern conditions of life.*⁸⁴

The scheme for bringing women to Scheyville got under way in February 1916, when an Advisory Board was appointed, consisting of seven women, three of whom were married to government ministers, and the Board's chairman, Frank Brennan, the manager of the Labour Bureau. This Advisory Board was soon enlarged to have two more women and another man, Professor Leo Cotton. One of the former boys' open dormitories was to be converted into cubicles, each for either a solitary woman or for two women, while boys continued to occupy the other dormitory building.⁸⁵

None of this succeeded very well. The first intake of students numbered only two on 27 July 1916, two more came on 3 August, though the numbers rose to twenty by February 1917, with a further five expected in March.⁸⁶ When the Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr Beeby (Estell's successor), visited Scheyville on 4 January 1917, he expressed disappointment at the response from women and emphasised that he had hoped that more women would wish to be trained for work in 'intensive farming and especially dairying'. Beeby also felt that:

*the teaching of the arts and science of agriculture [to women] ...could be more effectively carried on by the Agriculture Department on some of its experimental farms in the State.*⁸⁷

The allegation that women were unresponsive provoked a letter from Miss E.M. Brace, the Secretary of the Women's Horticultural and Home Industries Society. She was a professional gardener, claiming teaching experience overseas in New Zealand and Britain. She condemned Scheyville as 'absolutely unfit for women':

*The reason for the failure is that the women were told that Pitt Town would be for horticulture, beekeeping, canning, &c., but when they came to see the place or talked with those who had seen it, they found these things could not be taught, as there were no teachers or facilities for teaching; also that though the place looked very pretty in the prospectus, the reality was quite different. To be given board and lodgings free is all very well, but if you have to work eight hours a day for it, it is not much. Are men asked to do this?... Evidently it has been forgotten that educated refined women wish to take up this work.*⁸⁸

⁸³ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 10 September 1915.

⁸⁴ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 10 September 1915.

⁸⁵ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 2 March 1917, 1; Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 26.

⁸⁶ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 2 March 1917, 1.

⁸⁷ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 12 January 1917, 10.

⁸⁸ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 2 February 1917, 7.

The Women's Horticultural and Home Industries Society had been established after the outbreak of World War I by the Feminist Club to further its objectives of equal rights in an unexceptionably patriotic context. The first prospectus of the new Society was issued as the Society sought better training opportunities for women not only at Pitt Town but also at a proposed new farm and orchard at Dural and at a proposed school for horticulture at Moore Park in Sydney. The first of the nine aims of the Society was:

To promote the education of women in all branches of horticulture, poultry-farming, bee-keeping, fruit and vegetable culture, drying and preserving fruit, growing medicinal herbs and plants..

while the last aim was:

To assist the nation by helping in the development of rural industries, and promoting a more vigorous race by encouraging a healthy open-air life for women.⁸⁹

In the midst of all this clamour over the appropriate form of training for women, the Minister for Labour persevered. Over the inaugural eight months of the scheme, from the end of July 1916 until March 1917, the subjects offered to the first twenty women included dairying and the care of hens and pigs. Miss May Matthews, a member of the Advisory Board, said roundly in answer to Miss Brace:

that the farm never claimed to be a horticultural training farm, but agricultural, and that as for the women having to plough and do unsuitable rough work those students who do it do so from choice.

Miss Matthews conceded that most of the courses promised in the Scheyville prospectus for women could not yet be taught early in 1917: and these unfulfilled courses included horticulture, bee-keeping, sericulture, fruit-drying and fruit preserving, which figured large in the aims of the Women's Horticultural and Home Industries Society.

By contrast, the courses in dairying under Mrs Hassall, previously a North Coast dairy-farmer in her own right, in poultry-raising under Mr A.E. Powell, from the Guildford Stud Farm, and in orcharding, under an experienced but unnamed man, were, according to the Advisory Board, flourishing by March 1917.⁹⁰

Nonetheless, the women's programme at Scheyville was abandoned in August 1917 on the grounds of expense, although the remaining women were transferred to the government's experimental farm at Cowra to complete their training. The trainees were not unappreciative, according to the local newspaper:

The ladies are sorry to leave Scheyville. They speak admiringly of the management, and feel that they owe to Mr Greer and his staff a deep debt of gratitude for all that they have done for them, and for all they have learned.⁹¹

⁸⁹ Richard Clough, 'An Appeal to Patriotism: the Women's Horticultural and Home Industries Society Limited', *Australian Garden History*, 16 v, May-June 2005 forthcoming. I am most grateful to Professor Clough for a preview of his article.

⁹⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 2 March 1917, 1.

⁹¹ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 24 August 1917, 2.

The Second Phase of the Dreadnought Scheme, 1919 to 1929

In 1919 the Dreadnought scheme resumed.⁹² Between 1921 and 1930, 5 585 Dreadnought youths arrived in Australia and about half of them went to Scheyville. Most of the others were placed at the experimental farms, while 7% went straight into rural employment.⁹³

The New South Wales State government continued to take full responsibility for the Dreadnought farm until 1925. In that year, the Commonwealth government agreed to pay half the costs of running the establishment, while the British government was to pay one third of 'approved maintenance expenditure'. This changed financial structure led to the massive changes in 1929 which created the striking suite of brick buildings now known as the Quadrangle Precinct, as well as many changes in farm buildings and amenities of which substantial traces are still visible in the landscape.⁹⁴ (Figure 16)

The Georgian Revival and Inter War Mediterranean style of the Quadrangle buildings, characteristic of the aesthetics of the Public Works Department at that time, brought an new architectural quality to Scheyville, on a new hill-top site. The foundation stone was laid in February 1929 and the buildings were opened by the chairman of the Dreadnought Trustees on 21 December 1929. There has been some speculation by Helen Proudfoot that the design architect was Leslie Wilkinson, Bruce Dellitt or Hardy Wilson. It appears however that the work was actually done in-house at the Government Architect's Office in 1928. The designer was V. Wilshire, the draughtsman Thomas Barford, and the working drawings were signed off by the Government Architect himself, Richard Wells in July, August and September 1928.⁹⁵

The Quadrangle contained a small administrative block facing north, where DECC now has its headquarters, with two long dormitory blocks behind and at the rear, enclosing the quadrangle, a dining-room and kitchen.

Following this major new accommodation for the Dreadnought boys in 1929, the 1930s saw large changes in the location and structures throughout the farming area. [(Figure 17)]

⁹² Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 26-7.

⁹³ Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 12.

⁹⁴ Anna Irvine, John Kelly, Francesca O'Brien, Stephen Poytress and Mark Singer, 'Conservation Management Plan – Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct', thesis for M.Herit.Cons, University of Sydney, 2002, 17.

⁹⁵ Helen Proudfoot, 'The Scheyville Site: Historical Analysis for the Department of Housing and Construction', October 1986, 7-8; Irvine, Kelly, O'Brien, Poytress and Singer, 'cmp- Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct', 29 and Appendix 2 (reproduction of original plans).

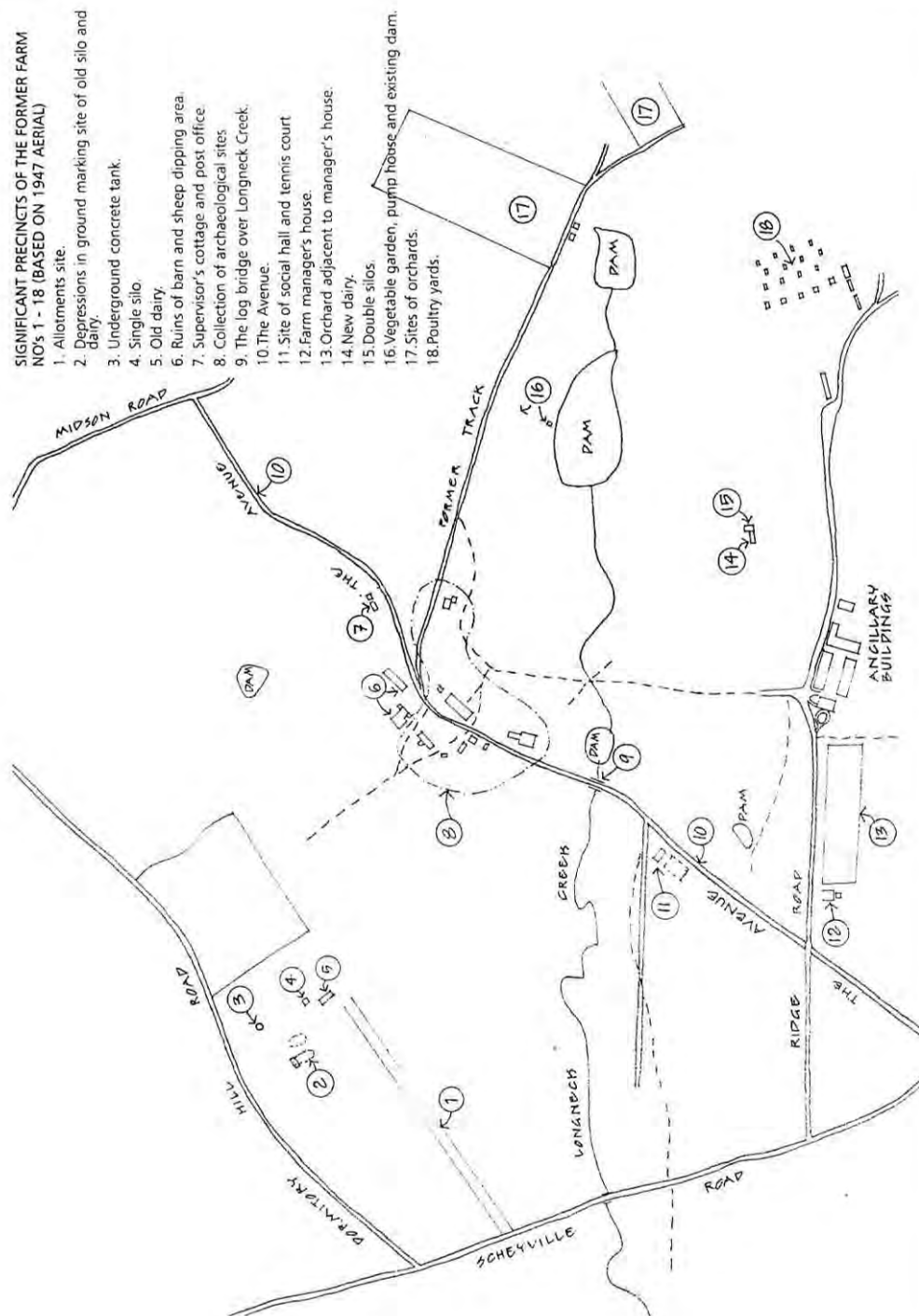


Figure 17

Locations of farm features mapped by Julie Marler and Nicola Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct, Scheyville National Park', Conservation Management Plan, thesis for Master of Heritage Conservation, University of Sydney 2002, 13

The Government Training Farm, 1930 to 1939

The suspension of the Dreadnought Scheme under Scullin's new NSW Labour government immediately after the massive rebuilding operation in 1929, did not stop the flow of British migrants during the Depression. The Dreadnought Scheme was officially resumed in 1939 but was closed down again with the opening of hostilities in World War II.⁹⁶ All this is thoroughly documented in the files of the State Department of Labour and Industry.⁹⁷

New double silos were erected in 1933, a new, relocated piggery opened in the same year and a new dairy was constructed. The large tank base just to the east of the double silos was also installed in 1933. The remains of some of these structures are still visible today.

At the same time, with the reorientation of the farm and accommodation, The Avenue with its still surviving wooden bridge over the creek, which had been the main access since the Dreadnought scheme began in 1910, became redundant and a new road, the present entry, came from Scheyville Road along the ridge to the 1929 administration building of the Quadrangle.⁹⁸

This realignment of the access roads led to the closure of the road from Midson Road to the original horse-shoe development of 1893 and the schoolhouse of 1894. This happened one year before the school reserve of 2 acres [0.8 hectare] was finally revoked in 1936. Although Dormitory Hill Road was also closed in 1935, indignation from local people expressed through the local Council was successful in reopening it as a public thoroughfare.⁹⁹

An account in the local newspaper gives a snapshot of the training farm in the mid-1930s. There were 64 boys on the farm in September 1936: 700 gallons of milk were produced each week, of which 500 gallons were sold, while hens laid 140 dozen eggs a week. New sheep-shearing equipment had just been presented by the Wolseley company and was received on site by the Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr Dunningham.¹⁰⁰

Throughout the 1930s boys continued to migrate from Britain for the specific purpose of being trained for farming in Australia, and the training farm flourished until World War II broke out in 1939. The Quadrangle Precinct was occupied by the military from 1940 until 1944 and the farm, except for the dairy which was sold, provided a degree of self-sufficiency at Scheyville. But the training element for British youths which had been its primary character from 1910 to 1915 and again from 1919 to 1939 had finally departed.

The Dreadnought Scheme had been only a very partial success. Michael Roe's conclusion in *Australia, Britain and Migration* was that there was widespread disillusionment at all levels with the outcomes of the whole theory of Empire Settlement.¹⁰¹ Because of improved prospects for employment and 'a new consumer culture of leisure' in Britain between the wars, Dreadnought Boys, particularly those of middle-class background, 'may have suffered an initial decline in social status and material expectations by migrating'.¹⁰²

A series of photographs of the government training farm are included in Appendix 2.

⁹⁶ Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.18; Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 5, 17.

⁹⁷ Special files were created for what was known as the Government Training Farm at Scheyville and are accessible in State Records NSW covering the years 1930 to 1953.⁹⁷ These are voluminous and it was not possible either for Julie Marler and Nicola Ross in 2002 or for Ian Jack in 2005 to embark on a proper analysis of this invaluable correspondence. The materials exist, however, for a really extensive and intensive study of the Training Farm in the 1930s (and for the use of the farm during the subsequent period of military occupation) and this should be a high priority for a future study.

⁹⁸ Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.17-18.

⁹⁹ State Records NSW, Labour and Industry Special Files, 5/3477 file 29057; *NSW Government Gazette*, 20 September 1935.

¹⁰⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 2 October 1936.

¹⁰¹ Michael Roe, *Australia, Britain and Migration, 1915-1940; A Study of Desperate Hopes*, Melbourne 1995.

¹⁰² Sherington, *JRAHS*, 82, 1996, 18.

2.6 Military Use during World War II, 1940 to 1944

With the advent of World War II in 1939, the use of Scheyville as a training farm came effectively to an end. The farm remained, worked by remaining trainees, under a small staff, to supply produce to the new military occupants.

Initially, in October 1940, the Commonwealth government took over Scheyville 'for use as a military school in artillery and anti-tank warfare for the duration of the war'. The military personnel occupied the 1929 quadrangle.¹⁰³ [(Figure 18)] The details of the artillery use of the old Common have not been ascertained, but it is known that in 1941 cattle continued to be run on the grazing land and men whom the locals derisively called 'Government week-enders' rode horses over the area. This led to an abortive local proposal that 1000 acres (400 hectares) of the former training farm reserve be made available for soldiers' settlement blocks.¹⁰⁴

In 1939 a highly specialised unit, the 52nd Anti-Aircraft Mobile Searchlight Company, had been formed as a new, vital element in the defence of Australia. This company, initially based in Sydney, moved to the racecourse at Clarendon beside Richmond Airbase, controlling a ring of searchlights and anti-aircraft guns. After Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the need for such searchlight units was increasingly recognised and companies were formed at Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney. In mid-1942 a unified command was established for all the searchlight companies within the Australian Imperial Force and on 15 September 1942 the 73rd Anti-Aircraft Searchlight (AASL) Company was formed and located at Scheyville.¹⁰⁵

By 1942 a great many slit trenches had been dug as defence against attack around the 1929 Quadrangle at Scheyville. These constituted a hazard to the searchlight unit, which with six officers and 207 other ranks, settled into the Quadrangle buildings and into tents pitched nearby late in 1942. The former farm was not alive with searchlights, since the four American lights to be used had not been delivered, so the training at Scheyville in 1942-3 was severely theoretical, while advanced discipline was instilled into the 213 men.

Still without their searchlights, the 73rd Company was ordered to move from Scheyville and on 6 November 1942 they embarked for Brisbane (where the American equipment at last became available). In 1943 they went to Papua New Guinea, where their training at Scheyville and Brisbane was put to good effect.¹⁰⁶

The Searchlight Company had been at Scheyville for less than eight weeks. It left little material mark, even on Cattai Creek. After a gap of about a year, the quadrangle was reoccupied by the Australian 1st Parachute Battalion from late 1943 until late 1944.

During this period of sporadic military occupation, the farm continued to supply the troops. After the Parachute Battalion left in 1944, it appears that no other troops used Scheyville, but the extent to which the farm remained active over the next five years is unclear, before the new phase of operating as a migrant hostel began in 1949.¹⁰⁷ An oral history programme is currently underway to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge about this period of use.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰³ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 October 1940; Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 33.

¹⁰⁴ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 33.

¹⁰⁵ Noel Hill, "The Long White Finger": a Narrative History of the 73rd Aust. Mobile Searchlight Battery, A.I.F., during its Active Life 1942-5, 1987, 7-10.

¹⁰⁶ Hill, "The Long White Finger", 11-14, 20-41; R. Donnelly, *The Scheyville Experience: the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, 1965-1973*, St Lucia 2001, 196-7.

¹⁰⁷ Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.22. See below, 7, for concerns by the local Windsor Council that the farm was not being used in 1948.

¹⁰⁸ Sue Andersen and Mary Ann Hamilton in preparation.

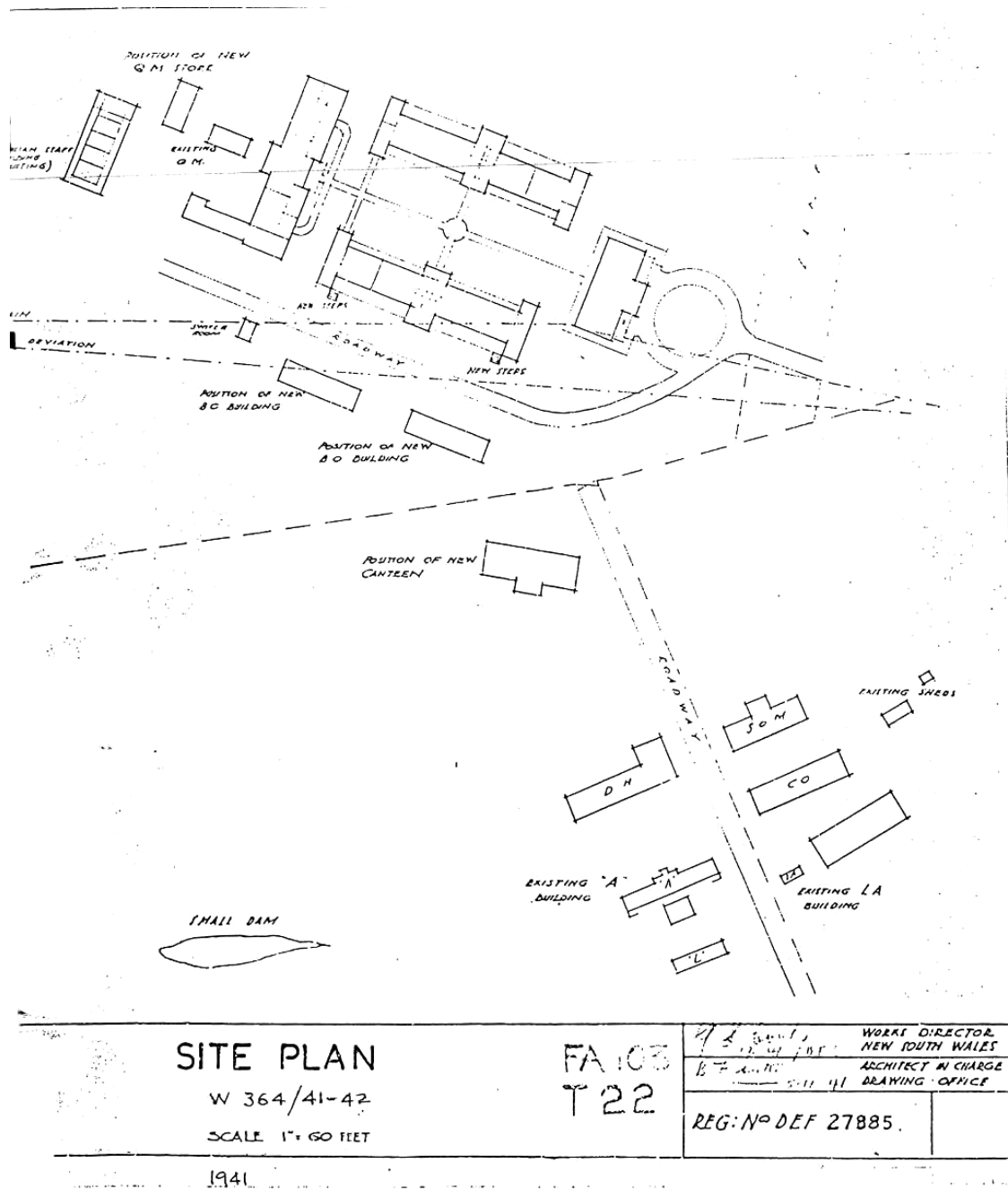


Figure 18
The central part of the military site in 1941
National Archives of Australia, W 364/41- 42

2.7 Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre, 1949 to 1964

As the war ended in 1945 there was a proposal to reuse Scheyville as an extension of Gosford Boys' Home. The State Minister for Education, however, decided that the period of military occupation had led to such deterioration in the condition of the main Quadrangle that he would not persevere with the transfer of the Gosford boys who went instead to a farm at Muswellbrook.

Windsor Borough Council was also concerned about the future of the site. It noted in 1948 that the Scheyville farm was apparently neither in use nor paying the Council any rates.

It seems clear that the entire area of the former Training Farm was seriously run down first by the activities of the military and then by their inactivity in the immediate post-war years. Then on 5 April 1949 the Windsor aldermen were informed by the Commonwealth government that Scheyville was to be used as a reception centre for up to 1000 overseas migrants at any one time. The local Council, with access to some Federal funds, was required to supply the complex with electricity and water, which had serious implications for local infrastructure, not least for nearby Pitt Town.¹⁰⁹ (Figures 19-20)

Including service staff, some 1200 people were regularly housed at any one time at Scheyville from 1951 until the centre was wound down in 1964. This number of residents involved considerable alteration to the internal fabric of the existing Quadrangle buildings of 1929 and massive additional structures along the ridge to the west and north of the Quadrangle. Barrack-style accommodation was erected: the two great SSAR huts¹¹⁰ and other new buildings housed a school, a kindergarten, a crèche and a hospital with twelve maternity beds. More extensive dining and cooking facilities were required. The question of legal control was partly clarified in January 1954 when the central portion of the site, including the Quadrangle, was gazetted for Commonwealth Immigration purposes.¹¹¹ A community hall was constructed and by 1956 a sports field and a carpark had been added. The farm, by contrast, does not seem to have been used during the fifteen years of the migrant hostel.¹¹²

The social significance of the migrant hostel period, during which so many overseas people whose families are still settled in Australia and for which there is so much potential for oral history, is very high and the physical evidence of these fifteen years is highly impressive even today. Appendix 2 has a series of historic images of the Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre 1949-1964 from the National Archives in Canberra. These photographs provide an important record of every day life at the centre and illustrate in particular some of the communal recreational activities that were organised by the migrants.

In 1963 the State Department of Lands sold the southern part of the former Training Farm, in a ring of 5- to 10-acre blocks along the west end of Scheyville road and the north side of Saunders Road and in 1964 the Federal decision to close the camp was taken. Only 300 migrants were in residence by the latter part of the year and the Migrant Holding Centre closed on 31 December 1964.

¹⁰⁹ Stubbs, *History of Scheyville*, 34.

¹¹⁰ Sometimes referred to as SAAR huts recent research has failed to identify what SAAR stands for (see for example Booker et al 2002) but Iain Stuart has suggested it could be a corruption of Single Steele Arch Rib. Stuart pers com. to Cath Snelgrove 1/8/2007. SSAR refers to Stran Steel Arch Rib hut

¹¹¹ *Commonwealth Government Gazette*, 7 January 1954.

¹¹² Marler and Ross, 'The Former Farm Precinct', p.2.22.

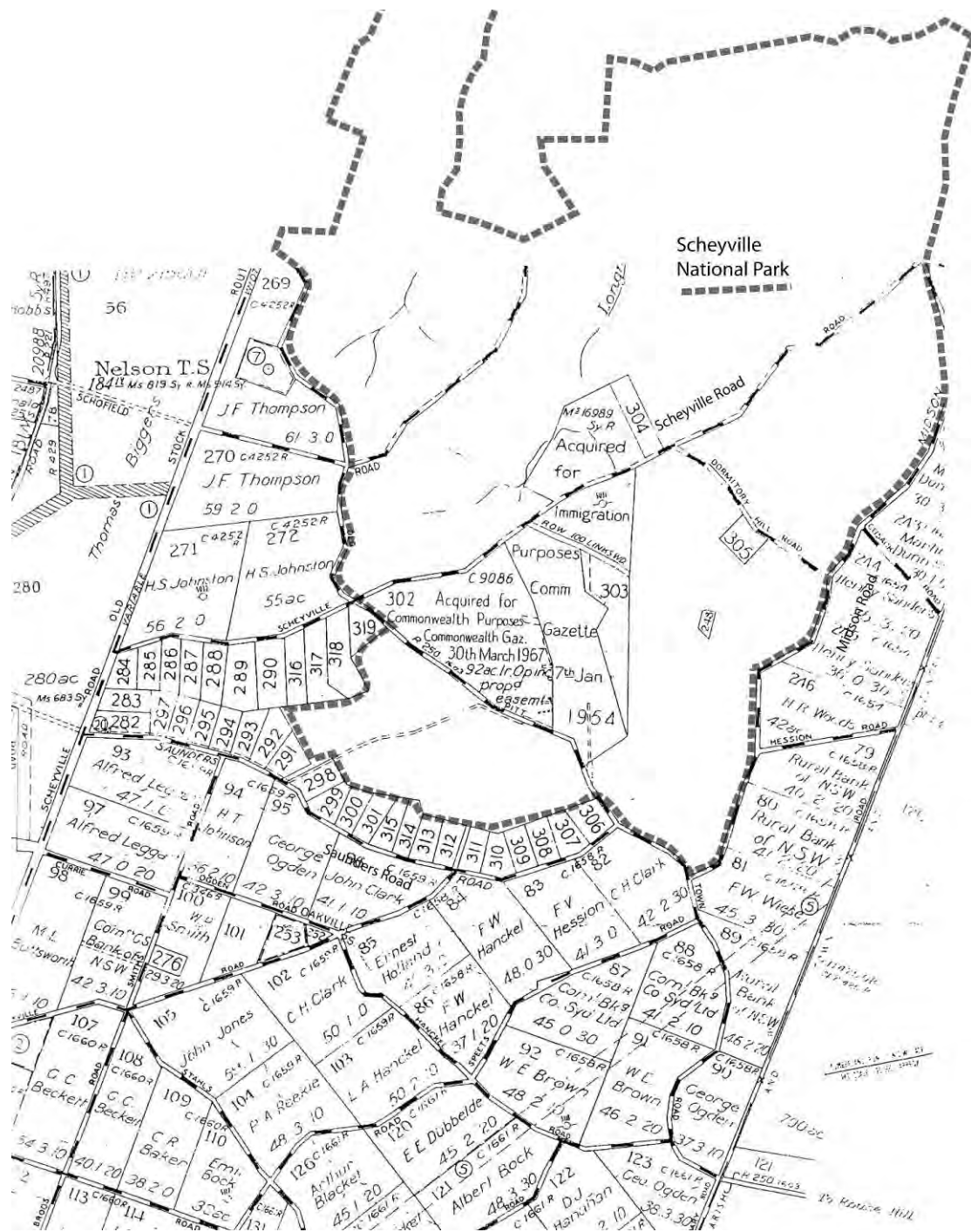


Figure 19
The Migrant Holding Centre, as belatedly gazetted in 1954. The subdivisions along Saunders Road and Scheyville Road which define the present southern boundary of the National Park are also shown.

Map of Pitt Town parish, 7th ed., 1967

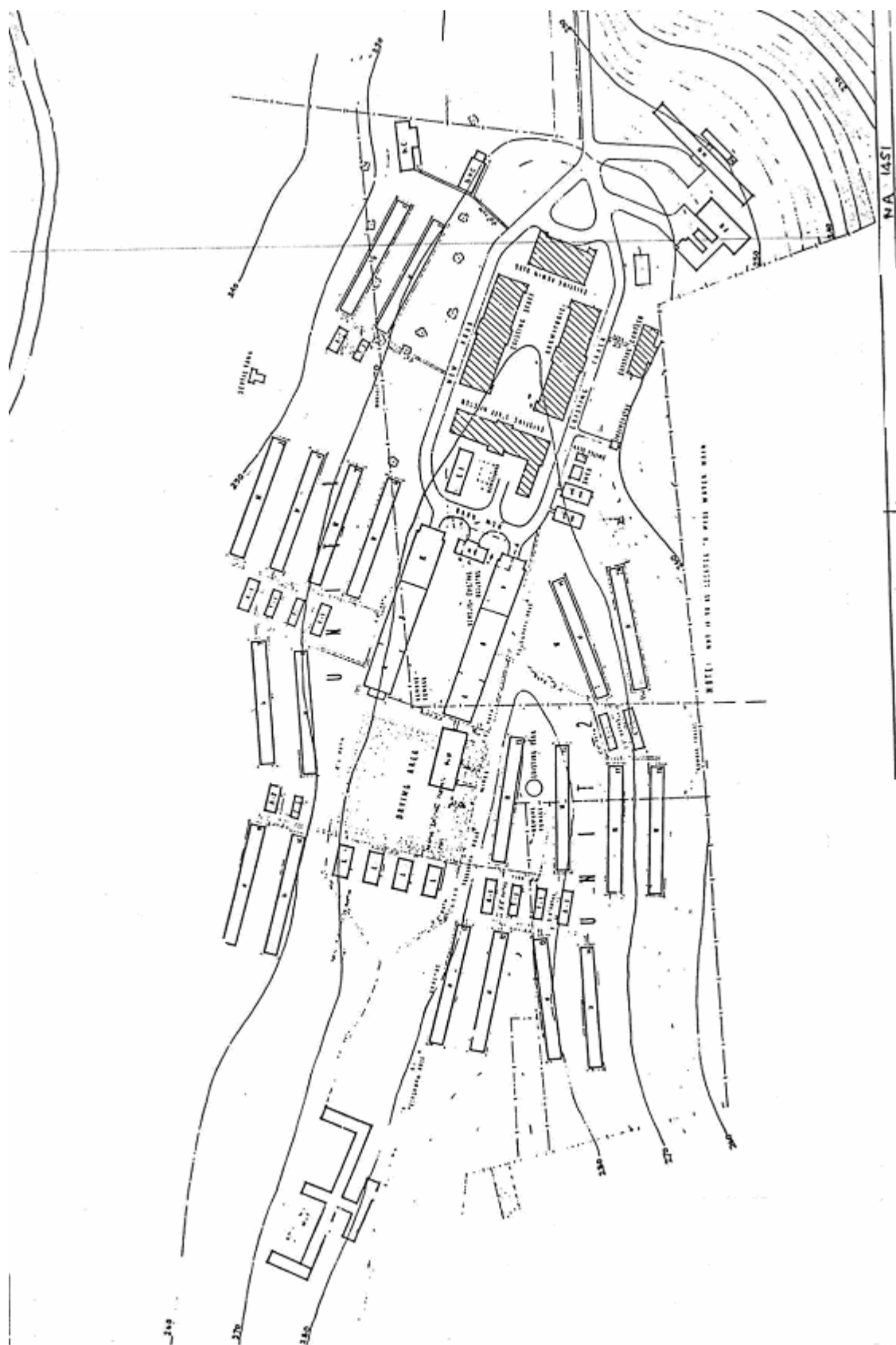


Figure 20 Layout of the Migrant Holding Centre 1950 showing a large number of buildings many of which are no longer on the site and the functions of some of which are not known. National Archives of Australia, NA 1451.

In 2005 the NSW Parks and Wildlife Group Service and the Migration Heritage Centre commissioned the Scheyville Dreadnought and Migrant Phase Study. This study involved oral history interviews and additional historical research. The following sections (7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4) present a summary of this study relating to the Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre and was written by Sue Andersen, Mary Ann Hamilton and Laila Elmoos. Video recording of the oral histories was undertaken and the tapes were logged. The descriptions below are not intended to provide full biographies of the oral history participants or detailed discussion of their contributions. The recordings and logs should be referred to for further detail about the individuals and their stories.

Post World War II Migration to Australia

1945 saw most European countries devastated and reeling from the effects of WWII. Between 15 and 20 million people had been killed in the conflict that raged between 1939 and 1945. The war had reduced many of Europe's cities and countryside to debris and had crippled economies and infrastructure.

During the years of conflict 60 million people from the continent were left displaced and homeless. By the end of the war many European people were left with few resources with which to re-build their lives. They also had the resounding memories of their wartime experience. Many people were in need of assistance and a place to make a new home.

The events of WWII were challenging for Australia. The years of conflict highlighted our isolated and vulnerable position as a European outpost in the Asia – Pacific region. Australia was thought to have a population too small to effectively defend itself in the face of armed threat by another nation. As well, the war years had left the Australian economy starved and in need of reconstruction and opportunities for growth.

In 1945 the Federal government decided to instigate a large post war programme of immigration and formed the Federal Department of Immigration. The Department was headed by Arthur Caldwell, Australia's first Minister for Immigration. Caldwell believed that the new "Migration Program" would be the first step to increasing Australia's population and ensuring our post war economic growth.¹¹³

The first migration agreement was struck between the Australian and British governments in 1946 and offered free assisted passage to Australia for British ex-servicemen and their families. Shortly after this Australia agreed to receive Polish ex-servicemen who could or would not return to Poland after the War. This was extended to include ex-servicemen from other Northern European countries.¹¹⁴

This began the surge of post World War II migration to Australia which was further boosted in 1947 when Australia agreed to resettle 12,000 displaced people per year from displaced persons camps in Europe. Over the next year migrants were received from Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania and by 1949 the number of assisted arrivals had reached 118,899 and by 1950 the figure reached 153,685.

During the 1950s trends in migration to Australia were the result of national and international events. 1951 saw the continued organisation of assisted passage programmes with the Netherlands and Italy. In 1954 assisted passage schemes were struck with the USA, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark. In all during the 10 years after the end of WWII Australia had received and resettled one million migrants mainly from Britain and Europe.¹¹⁵

¹¹³ Immigration to Australia During the 20th Century - a timeline.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ National Archives of Australia. Fact Sheet 170. Migrant hostels in New South Wales 1946 – 78.

Migrant Accommodation

Most of the migrants arriving in the post war years were initially housed at government-run migrant accommodation. These places were variously known as Migrant Camps, Migrant Holding Centres, Migrant Reception Centres, Migrant Training Centres or Migrant Hostels. In NSW there were over 36 hostels many of which were located in Sydney suburbs and also in regional areas such as Cowra, Greta and Leeton, Lithgow and Goulburn. Bathurst Holding Centre was one of the largest of the Centres in Australia. The migrant accommodation provided the basics of a place to live and was usually made use of existing building stock that was modified to cater for the migrants and their families. Many of the centres consisted of disused army huts.

From 1945 to 1948 migrant accommodation was administered by the Department of Labour and National Service. In 1948 the control of administration was given to the Migrant Workers Accommodation Division of the Department and then in 1952 it was taken on by the Commonwealth Hostels Limited that operated until 1978.¹¹⁶

Some assistance was provided to find work either in private enterprise or through government job contracts such as on the railways or, in the immediate post war years, on large-scale government initiated employment schemes such as the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Some assistance was also provided in learning English and providing basic access to education for children.

The Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre

After being left unused for a number of years, in 1949 the Commonwealth Government seconded the use of the facilities at Scheyville to accommodate newly arrived migrants. A number of modifications were made to the site including the remodelling of the quadrangle facilities to accommodate Migrant Holding Centre staff and administrative offices. Between 1949 and 1956 a large number of prefabricated army huts were relocated and installed at Scheyville to house the new migrants and their families. These huts were situated on the western side of the 1929 quadrangle. The kitchen and dining facilities existing in the quadrangle complex were augmented with facilities housed in one of 2 SSAR huts installed on site. A second SSAR hut and a number of new buildings housed hospital facilities, education and child minding facilities. By 1956 a community hall had been erected and a sports field and car park developed on the site.¹¹⁷

Arriving From Europe

In December 1949 Scheyville Holding Centre received its first intake of migrants.¹¹⁸ It operated as a Migrant Holding Centre for dependant families until 1964 and during this time housed migrants from many different countries of origin with those from the Netherlands, and eastern European countries dominating. A number of former residents of the Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre recalled that during the 1950s the camp was full of people from Holland, Germany, Poland, Estonia and other Eastern European countries.

For many former residents of Scheyville Holding Centre, their migration journey was undertaken in context of the trauma and shock of their wartime and post war experience. Eugene Alexandro arrived in Australia in 1948 with only two boxes of personal belongings for the whole family. They had no financial resources and were dependant on the arrangements for food and accommodation offered by the Australian Government. He and his family travelled from Germany where they had been reunited with his father, a Russian prisoner of war. The strain and difficulties of migration were compounded in Eugene's family's case as they had to leave his eldest brother in Germany until he recovered from an accident. For Eugene the most exciting day during his stay at Scheyville was the day his brother arrived to finally join the family.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Irvine et al (2002). Conservation Management Plan – Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct.

¹¹⁸ Booker et al (2002). Scheyville National Park Conservation Management Plan for the Hut Precinct.

Eugenia Jeremiejczyky who was born in Poland, had spent a number of years as a prisoner of war in Germany where “life was very difficult”. Her adjustment to her new life in Australia was made more difficult by the fact that as a legacy of the hardship of the war years her son was very ill. Her first months in Australia were full of worry and fear. Margaret Gurtman was a young Polish woman who had also spent much of the war as a German prisoner of war. She arrived at Scheyville with her husband and small children in 1951 and recalled that arriving in Australia with no money after the war was difficult but nevertheless Scheyville “seemed like paradise, in Germany we were treated like animals, we were happy to be here in Australia”¹¹⁹

Other former residents at Scheyville such as Anne Marie Birdsey’s family, had been moved from their homeland in Estonia during the war and ended up in Germany after the Germans surrendered. With the assistance of the International Refugee Organisation, the displaced and homeless family migrated to Australia in 1949.

While the problems of displacement and homelessness for European families may have abated over the early years of the 1950s, for many like Joanna Veldt and her husband who migrated to Australia from Holland in 1955, the sustained difficult economic conditions in many European countries made migration an attractive option.

A similar story is told by a member of the Dutch Australian Cultural Centre. This man and his wife were living in an attic room above her parent’s apartment when the wife became pregnant. She had to stop work at that time and with the loss of her income went their only chance of saving for an apartment and establishing a secure life. In a spirit of adventure and opportunity they applied to migrate to Australia with the wife’s parents following once their daughter and her husband were established here. This family spent their first weeks at Scheyville. They soon found work and moved to rented accommodation.¹²⁰

First Impressions

Migrants arriving in Australia in the late 1940s to mid 1950s had travelled from Europe by ship. After reporting to the Department of Immigration they were transported to their allocated migrant accommodation without delay.

In 1948, Eugene Alexandro remembered that when his family first arrived he and his mother were sent to the Holding Centre in Cowra while his father was accommodated in Sydney. They had little choice in where they stayed but after a few weeks Eugene and his mother were moved to Scheyville, which at that stage was all brand new - the big semi-circular corrugated iron huts and other accommodation were an impressive sight to Eugene who was 5 years old when he arrived at Scheyville.

For others the long dusty bus ride or train ride to Scheyville was quite bewildering. Located as it was on the rural outskirts of Sydney, Scheyville seemed to be in the middle of nowhere in a country that was dry and full of abandoned farms.¹²¹ Anne Marie Birdsey recalls the sense of isolation she felt living in the middle of the bush at Scheyville. Her mother was astounded at the setting as she had only ever lived in cities in Estonia and Germany.

The isolated location of Scheyville with no public phones and no accessible public transport made life very difficult for many. This difficulty was compounded when families were split up between different migrant accommodation as experienced by Joanne Veldt and her husband in the first months of her life in Australia in 1955. After a couple of weeks at Bonegilla in Victoria, the Veldts were sent to Sydney, Joanna and her 2 year old daughter to Scheyville and her husband to Villawood where he was contracted to work on upgrading the nearby railway line. He would travel to Scheyville every second weekend to see his family. Joanne was pregnant at the time and feeling so depressed by the

¹¹⁹ Eugina Jeremiejczyky *SNP MOH 01* - 20.36.

¹²⁰ Dutch Australian Cultural Centre website [http://dacc.com.au/2ndSe\[2\]](http://dacc.com.au/2ndSe[2]). – Guestbook .

¹²¹ Aartz Brothers *SNP MOH 04* - 39.15.

circumstances that she ran away from Scheyville and found her way to Villawood to see her husband. Her husband insisted that she return to Scheyville where she stayed for the next two years.

In a similar vein, Maria Foreman-Smoulders (nee Smoulders) whose family arrived at Scheyville in 1957 recalls that her father found work at Caringbah and returned to see his family on weekends. This pattern continued for four years during which time the family saved to buy a block of land at Ryde.¹²²

Life at Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre Accommodation

In the early years of the Scheyville Holding Centre's operation, migrants were accommodated in the large semicircular corrugated iron huts on site. These structures were divided into 3 rooms and 3 to 5 people slept in each room. Richard Gurtman and his family lived in this accommodation when they first arrived in 1951. When the small rectangular huts became available the family moved out of the big hut and into one of these.¹²³ Initially men and women were accommodated in separate barracks but by the time the smaller huts were installed on site families were accommodated together.¹²⁴

One of Yvonne Antonio Kinney's (nee Hilberding) clearest childhood memories is of arriving at Scheyville in 1962 after a long journey from Holland via Sydney. She recalled finally getting off the bus and sitting with her mother and her little brother under the date palm in the quadrangle at Scheyville while her father attended to paperwork in the nearby office. The family of 6 was given accommodation of a hut of three rooms. A bedroom for the children, one for their parents and the baby and a lounge room.¹²⁵

This was typical of the accommodation allocation with smaller families of 3 and 4 receiving one hut of two rooms and one family of 9 receiving two huts divided into 4 rooms. The rooms were small, about 4 meters by 4 meters – no bigger than a small garage as the Aartz brothers recalled.¹²⁶ Each room had a steel framed bed with a feather mattress for each person and two chairs.¹²⁷

While some recalled the accommodation as being quite primitive others were more than happy. Dianne Beeken who arrived at Scheyville in 1956 recalls that her family of 15 people was allocated 4 whole huts and each child had their own bed. This was a huge amount of space compared to their accommodation in Holland.

The huts were single skin asbestos fibro clad structures with louvre windows.¹²⁸ The huts were not lined and provided little insulation from the extremes of weather. Anne Marie Birdsey recalled that at times during her family's two year stay at Scheyville it could get terribly cold in winter. One particularly cold night her father lit a kerosene heater to attempt to warm the rooms. Unluckily the curtains caught alight and he injured his hands putting out the fire. Eugenia Jeremiejczyk who was at Scheyville at the same time concurred noting that she was constantly knitting clothes for her son as they had no money to buy new ones.

Kurt and Joan Boesen recalled their first night at Scheyville was spent shivering in one of the two single beds they had been allocated. They shared the one bed to ensure that they had two layers of bedclothes on that chilly August night. "The next morning the ground was covered in frost. It was like a European landscape".¹²⁹

¹²² Maria Foreman-Smoulders *Scheyville Migrant Era Oral History* - Disk 3.

¹²³ Margaret Gurtman, Irene Rowan & Richard Gurtman *SNP MOH 03* - 20.36.

¹²⁴ Irvine et al (2002). *op cit*.

¹²⁵ Yvonne Aantonio – Kinney *SNP MOH 2* 20.54 and 25.15.

¹²⁶ Aartz Brothers *op cit* - 5.02.

¹²⁷ Sydney Morning Herald article 4 January 2003 found at <http://smh.com.au>.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Jan and Kurt Boesen *Scheyville Migrant Era Oral History* Disc 1.

Just as it was bitterly cold in winter, it was hot and humid in summer as recalled by a member of the Dutch Australian Cultural Centre:

By the time we arrived at the migrant hostel in Scheyville it was dark. We were tired and not used to the heat wave conditions as we had left a wintry Holland only days ago ... We opened the louvered window and slept without covers. Fresh in the tropics we did not know better yet, Next morning the baby was absolutely covered in red spots, just devoured by mosquitoes.¹³⁰

Bathroom and Laundry facilities

Bathroom and toilet facilities were in communal blocks located at a distance from the huts that posed a bit of a challenge for some – especially small children.¹³¹

Laundry facilities were also provided in a large hall fitted out with coppers, large laundry tubs and ironing facilities. Nearby was the drying area complete with washing lines supported by forked posts or branches and arrangement which apparently puzzled some of the women at Scheyville who had not come across such washing lines in their own country.¹³²

According to Frank Aartz, the laundry was an important place for the older women for it was where the women could meet other women at the Centre in the course of their everyday routines. This was an important opportunity given the isolation of the Centre and the loneliness of women often parted from their husbands for lengths of time.

The Hospital

The Scheyville Holding Centre also had a small hospital which was able to deal with less serious ailments such as the chicken pox outbreak that Irene Rowan experienced. At this time most of the children in the Centre were affected, many were hospitalised on site. Irene recalled not wanting to stay at the hospital and escaping in her pyjamas only to be sent back by her mother. Serious illnesses were treated at Windsor hospital where Eugenia Jeremiejczy spent many hours with her sick son soon after her arrival at Scheyville.

Meals

In 1948 /1949 according to Eugene Alexandrio, lunch and dinner were served in the dining hall in the southern most building of the quadrangle complex. Breakfast foods were available from the dining hall and most people took these back to their private accommodation. It would seem that by the late 1950s the kitchen and dining facilities had been expanded and were located in one of the large SSAR huts.¹³³

Apparently the quality of the food varied over the years with some people such as Eugene Alexandrio claiming that it was fine and others convinced that it was substandard. Some residents found the food, often mutton stews, to be very strange and unlike the food they were used to.¹³⁴

The food available through the Holding Centre kitchen could be augmented by supplies from a small shop located outside the gates of Scheyville just past water tank. According to Irene Rowan (nee Gurtman) this shop was run by a local farmer and stocked some of the European foods they were familiar with. Later (by late 1950s) a canteen operated at the back of the dining hall in the SSAR hut.

The Gurtman children, Richard and Irene who arrived at Scheyville with their parents in 1951 have vivid memories of catching fish in Long Neck Lagoon and catching rabbits in the surrounding bush and taking their catch home for the family to eat. Ears of corn given to the children by some local farmers were often cooked up in the big coppers in the laundry facilities.

¹³⁰ Dutch Australian Cultural Centre website *op cit*.

¹³¹ Yvonne Antonio- Kinney *op cit* - 22.28.

¹³² Dutch Australian Cultural Centre website *op cit*.

¹³³ Frank Aartz *SNP OH 04* 13.05.

¹³⁴ Dutch Australian Cultural Centre website *op cit*.

Work

The accommodation and food at the Scheyville Holding Centre was provided for free until the family found work when a rent was charged. In 1958 this amounted to 5 pounds for a room.¹³⁵ Some assistance was provided to find work. A number of the men found work at the Holding Centre as cooks, handymen, supervisors and administrative staff. A number of people recalled that the Centre doctor was a Polish immigrant.¹³⁶ Many of the men sent to Scheyville took advantage of the Centre's offer of a lift to Windsor "on an open flat top truck" to visit the employment bureau.¹³⁷ They found work at places such as local farms or enterprises. Others found work further afield in places such as the Port Kembla Steel Works that was said to be a major employer of Scheyville men in 1958.¹³⁸

Kurt Boesen recalls being taken to the employment office in Windsor on the day after arriving at Scheyville and being lucky enough to find a job as a carpenter at Woodville Road near Villawood straight away. Nevertheless his windfall of a job was not without its challenges, the isolation of Scheyville being one of them. Kurt got up early next morning, at 4am, walked into Windsor, caught the steam train to Blacktown and then an electric train to Parramatta and then Granville where he got off and had to find his way by foot to his job. When he did find the building site it was 10 am and he had been on the road for 6 hours. His foreman was less than impressed initially but soon intervened to have Kurt and his wife transferred to Villawood Migrant Hostel, a far more realistic distance from work.¹³⁹

The men from other families had entered contracts to work on government work schemes as part of their migration application. This was the experience of Joanna Veldt's husband and Eugene Alexandro's father who both worked near Villawood on the rail works in 1948 and 1955 respectively. Margaret Gurtman's husband worked at Rooty Hill on road works later at Warragamba.

Unfortunately for their families, the men who worked at these places were often accommodated near their work and were only able to visit their families at Scheyville at weekends. This put considerable strain on the women who, apart from acclimatising to Australia's weather and culture had to also cope with raising their families on their own.

Many of the women were in this situation and often took on work themselves to ensure that the family could establish themselves quickly in their new home. Often the women found work at the Holding Centre. Eugene Alexandro's mother served in the dining hall, as did Margaret Gurtman. Margaret recalled that because she had to work and consequently had to leave her children largely to their own devices her children developed an adventurous spirit. After school they roamed in the nearby bush, playing and getting up to small pranks often missing out on tea at the dining hall. Fortunately the cook, a Polish man, let her take their meals to the family's rooms so they did not go without.¹⁴⁰

Older children also worked to contribute to the family finances. Elvi Suviste's (nee Tomsen) parents were contracted to work in the kitchen at Scheyville Holding Centre before the family immigrated in 1949. Elvi herself found work at the Speedo factory at Windsor and at night attended a course in office skills at the Technical College. Elvi was later able to utilise these skills in the office at the Scheyville Holding Centre.¹⁴¹

Eugenia Jeremieczky and Anne Marie Birdsey recalled local farmers arriving at the Centre early in the morning looking for people to pick potatoes or other seasonal vegetables. Eugenia, having spent the war doing similar work at the German prisoner of war camp, found the work easy unlike Anne Marie's mother who had never experienced such physically hard work. Eugene Alexandro's mother also did this

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Dianne Beeken *SNP OH 02 33.18* Joanna Veldt *SNP OH - 01 6.20*.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Joan and Kurt Boesen *Scheyville Migrant Era Oral History - Disc1*.

¹⁴⁰ Margaret Gurtman, et al *op cit* - 20.05.

¹⁴¹ Elvi Suviste. *Scheyville Migrant Era Oral History Disc 1*.

seasonal work as well as working in the dining hall and he recalls her regularly heading off to one of the local farms with a group of 8 or 10 other women.¹⁴² In 1956 the women could earn three pounds a day picking vegetables; that was good money at the time.¹⁴³

Demonstrating an enterprising and determined spirit, Eugenia saved the money she made on the farms to buy a sewing machine and with this tool of trade in place soon found work making clothes for a local clothing factory. She taught Anne Marie's mother to sew and she too saved for a machine. Each evening the two women put the children to bed in one of their rooms and sewed well into the night to make extra money.

Recreation

A number of people interviewed at the 2005 reunion (see below) commented that despite provision of a recreation hall where they could play table tennis and other games, there was not a great deal for residents to occupy their time with when they were not working. There were very few organised activities for adults apart from the classes in English and in later years the film screenings in the cinema on a Friday or Saturday night.¹⁴⁴ Windsor was too far away to reach for a casual shopping excursion unless you travelled by car.

Nevertheless many residents participated in informal activities. Joanne Veldt remembers going for long walks with some of the other women and their children. These were important opportunities for companionship. There were also yearly Christmas parties with lots of singing and presents for the children.¹⁴⁵ Through these activities Joanne made good friends with some of the other Dutch families during her two year stay at Scheyville.

The Gurtmans recall that impromptu parties were the order of the day. They needed little excuse to head off to the shop just outside Scheyville gates and buy some European delicacies ready for a party. Tables would be dragged outside the huts and everyone would sit down to a feast. "It was like an extended family you felt very safe and secure. Everyone looked out for one another" (Irene Rowan nee Gurtman SNP OH 03 14.52)

The Church

Often these celebrations were for special occasions such as a group of children making their first communion. The Gurtmans recall that the church was a very important part of life at Scheyville and that the Catholic community was very strong during their time there. Richard Gurtman was an altar boy who served at mass on Sundays and he and the other children spent much of their time at the Church where the nuns organised activities for the children. Apart from games, the nuns spent a lot of time encouraging art and craft and Robert Van Hese still has a treasured small table that the nuns helped him to make at Scheyville 42 years ago.

Tony Derksem also noted when he arrived at Scheyville in 1951 the Church and those associated with it like the nuns and Father Doyle were very important in assisting people to adjust to Australia and their new situation at Scheyville. He recalls that Father Doyle regularly attended lunch with them after church and befriended many of the residents.¹⁴⁶

The Children

While many of their parents found life at Scheyville isolating, unfamiliar and challenging, for many of the children at Scheyville life was full and exciting. There was a preschool and a primary school on site that the children attended through the week. Many of those interviewed recalled playing on the school swings and riding bikes around the roads of Scheyville. Irene Rowan (nee Gurtman) recalled one particular incident when skylarking on her brother's bike down the front drive to the hostel. Her showing

¹⁴² Eugene Alexandro op cit - 27.38.

¹⁴³ Dianne Beeken op cit - 30.15.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid - 32.01.

¹⁴⁵ Joanne Veldt op cit - 9.07.

¹⁴⁶ Tony Derksem SNP MOH 02 - 40.06.

off soon led to a crash in which her brothers bike was damaged. Afraid she would be in terrible trouble she hid in the Church where she was found hours later. Everyone was so relieved she was safe that she didn't get into much trouble at all.

Eugene Alexandro was six years old when he and his family arrived at Scheyville. He remembers his years there as being full of fun and never lonely as there were so many other children of many nationalities to communicate with and make friends with. One particular aspect of his schooling that Eugene remembered was having the opportunity to learn different sports. He had never before had the opportunity to participate in organised sports and he relished the opportunity to compete in the sports teams and athletic carnivals.

The experience of school was not so happy for others. Maria Smoulders Foreman recalled that in the late 1950s, after attending the Scheyville school for a time, she went to the Catholic School in Windsor. Here she found the Australian girls to be resentful of those who came from Scheyville which made her schooldays a bit of a trial.¹⁴⁷

The Bush

It was in the bush and fields around Scheyville that many of the children, including Richard Gurtman and his sister Irene, spent most of their free time chasing cows, building cubbies and enacting sword fights between the kids from a block and b block. The proximity to the bush was why Richard Gurtman loved Scheyville so much:

"I just loved the nature and bush – I was always out in the bush or fishing. I only came home to sleep"
¹⁴⁸

The Aartz brothers Frank and Cornelius shared this enthusiasm for their childhood at Scheyville. They spent hours wandering the fields, going for a swim off the bridge at Windsor and swimming in the dam at Scheyville where there lived a colony of eels. Although the freedom to roam could have its dangers as the brothers found out when they picked up an old hand grenade during a dirt fight in the bush. Luckily the grenade did not detonate and was disposed of safely by one of the security personnel.

Leaving Scheyville

While technically the Commonwealth Holding Centres and Hostels were supposed to provide accommodation for a period of between 3 and 6 months¹⁴⁹ the length of stay at Scheyville varied between 3 months and 10 years.

It took only a bit more than one year for Eugene Alexandro's mother and father to earn enough to put a deposit on a house in Fairfield. For his mother it was a difficult year of adjusting to a new language, new food and ways of doing things. Nevertheless Eugene felt that it was probably the best year she and his father had spent since they were married.

Other families decided not to 'break the bank' and buy a house straight away but moved to rented accommodation and continued to work towards establishing a place of their own. This was the case for Dianne Beeken's family. After 8 months at Scheyville her father was offered a position growing mushrooms for a local farmer. The family moved to rented accommodation on the farm and later was able to buy their own home at Kellyville.

Parents and children of families who stayed years at Scheyville often regarded the community there as extended family and experienced another severe sense of dislocation when leaving. This was the case for the Gurtmans. The children cried when leaving and had to make another adjustment to their new life in the home they built in Blacktown.

¹⁴⁷ Maria Smoulders *Op cit*.

¹⁴⁸ Richard Gurtman SNP OH 03 24.42.

¹⁴⁹ National Archives of Australia *op cit*.

¹⁴⁹ Tony Derksem *op cit* - 38.50.

For some of the young children who passed through Scheyville the time they spent there was in many senses the beginning of their lives. Some of those children like Anne Marie Birdsey had very few memories of life in Europe and the life they remember begins with the open fields and scrubby bush surrounding Scheyville.

Whether they moved to their own home or to rented accommodation the families who passed through Scheyville used their time there not only to make money and save but to adjust to their new country and the patterns of life here. With the security of paid work, a little English and some knowledge of how things work in Australia the adults stepped out to take on the next stage of their life, life after the trials of the war and its aftermath.

Returning to Scheyville

The 2005 'Back to Scheyville' day was the first such reunion for the former Scheyville Migrant Camp people. Clearly, this event was regarded as highly important for it provided an opportunity for former migrants to gather and reconnect with people that they may not have seen for over forty years. It was an opportunity for them to revisit their experiences of first settling in Australia, acknowledge their achievements and shared experiences while at the camp and in their subsequent lives.

Returning to Scheyville had a particular resonance for each person. While the reunion offered the chance to renew old friendships, it also gave some the opportunity to walk around the site, find places that were significant for them and talk about and acknowledge their experience at Scheyville.

Some of the former Scheyville migrants had not revisited the site for over forty years while others had returned with family members on one or two occasions. Some were dismayed by the run-down condition of the site and grounds. The last time many people had seen the site it was an operating migrant camp in pristine condition. In 1995 after years of neglect the worst of the dilapidated buildings were demolished under the direction of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and since then a slow and careful conservation programme for the remaining buildings has begun. See section 2.11 for further details about this phase.

2.8 Officer Training Unit, 1965 to 1973

On 1 April 1965 Scheyville reverted to military control. This time it housed the Officer Training Unit (OTU), which had been created to train selected national servicemen as potential army officers. (Figure 21) During this period of national service, which began in 1965 and lasted until 1972, a proportion of 20-year-old Australian men were selected for two years of military service on the basis of a ballot which chose only certain birthdays. About 120 male only recruits were selected from each new intake to undergo 22 weeks of intensive training. The selection criteria were education, intelligence and personality.¹⁵⁰

Over the eight years of the programme 1871 of these conscripts spent time at the camp developing military leadership skills. The training was exhausting, lasting from early each morning until 9.30 p.m. five days a week and until lunchtime on Saturdays. It included classroom lectures, physical exercise and fieldcraft lessons, with periodic examinations.¹⁵¹

The instructors were described as

not just trainers, they were conditioners and hard task masters,

The same graduate, later a Vietnam veteran, described the process as

*being broken, remoulded, trained, challenged and tested....Cadets were pushed, prodded, screamed at and cajoled in a way that was similar to tearing the insides out of an old factory and completely renovating the insides.*¹⁵²

This process occurred around the 1929 Quadrangle, although some additional buildings were erected and the large parade ground some distance to the north-east was created with its ancillary buildings. The SSAR huts remaining from the migrant days were used for a variety of purposes, including messes for officers and sergeants. (Figure 21)

Approximately 330 of the early graduates, emerging with the rank of Second Lieutenant, were obliged to serve in the Vietnam War or in other spheres of combat, but the others served largely in the Education Corps. Some retained their link with the army after their compulsory period of service ended: thirteen became Brigadiers and 130 Lieutenant Colonels either in the regular army or in the Army Reserve, while others have become well-known in civilian political life, such as Jeff Kennett and Tim Fischer.¹⁵³

The memorial obelisk outside the Administration building of the Quadrangle recalls the various military occupations: among the plaques is a memorial to the eight young officers trained at Scheyville who died on service in Vietnam.

When a Labor government was elected in December 1972, it acted promptly to end national service. As a result, the last graduation of officers, celebrated partly on the Scheyville parade ground and partly at St Matthew's Anglican church in Windsor, was held in April 1973.¹⁵⁴ The Scheyville complex was left to deteriorate with no useful occupancy and minimal maintenance for the next three years.

¹⁵⁰ Donnelly, *The Scheyville Experience*, ix; Irvine, Kelly, O'Brien, Poytress, Singer, 'cmp – Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct', 21-2.

¹⁵¹ Donnelly, *The Scheyville Experience*, x, xii.

¹⁵² Donnelly, *The Scheyville Experience*, xi.

¹⁵³ Donnelly, *The Scheyville Experience*, x, xiii.

¹⁵⁴ Irvine, Kelly, O'Brien, Poytress, Singer, 'cmp – Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct', 23.

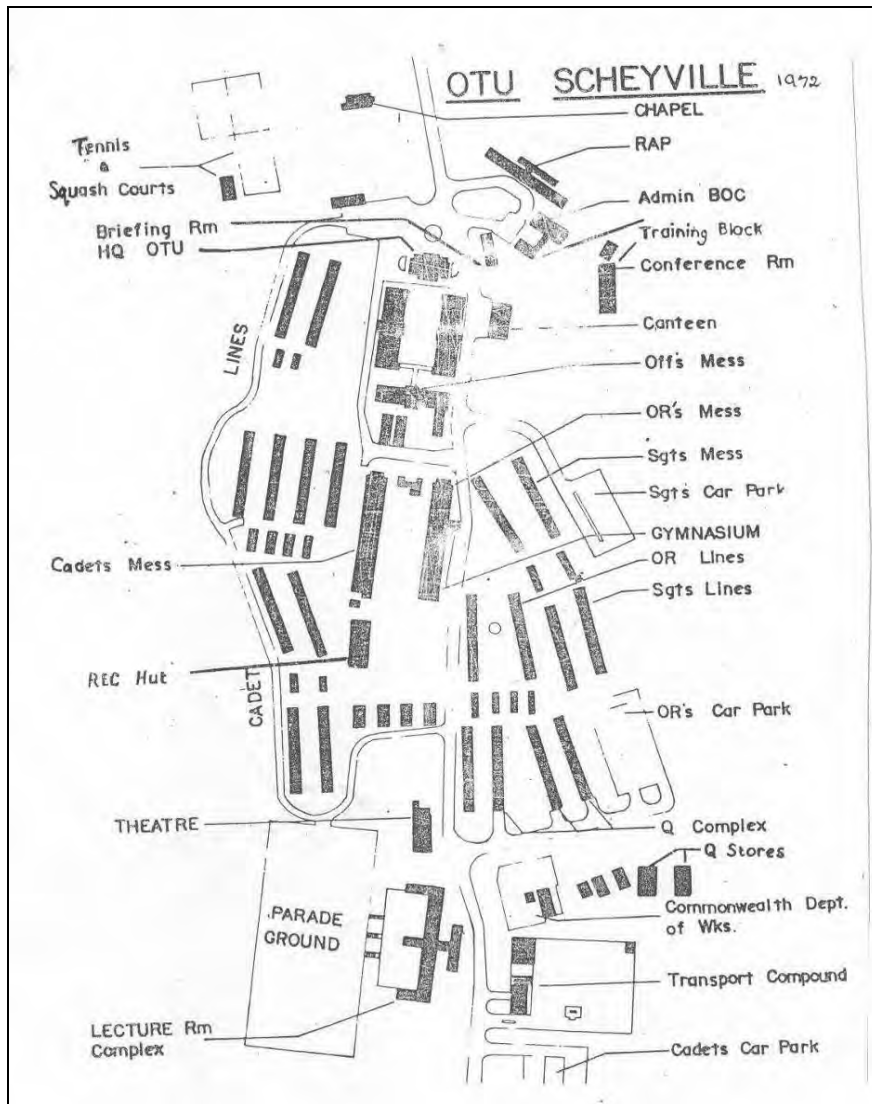


Figure 21

Site plan of 1972, showing the OTU uses for the buildings in the camp area. Cadets kept to the west of the central road, regular army to the east.

(Source: A Sonneveld)

2.9 Scheyville Campus of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, 1977 to 1983

Hawkesbury Agricultural College was the earliest training college of its sort in New South Wales, when it was founded in 1891, occupying part of the old Ham Common near Richmond. Its first Principal, John Thompson, had played a significant role in selecting Pitt Town Common as the site of the original Village Settlement at the future Scheyville.¹⁵⁵

After 85 years of distinguished service primarily to rural education, Hawkesbury Agricultural College became a College of Advanced Education on 19 March 1976. A rapid growth of student numbers was anticipated over the next few years. A shortage of capital funds made it difficult for more student residential accommodation to be built on the Richmond campus, so the opportunity to rent the Scheyville site from the Commonwealth in 1977 was eagerly seized, on a five-year lease. The new campus opened in 1978.¹⁵⁶ (Figure 22).

Scheyville was 16 kilometres away from Richmond, and was known affectionately to students as Faroutsville, but it was in poor condition in 1976 after three years of neglect. The College spent a good deal of money painting, carpeting, wallpapering, and making the existing buildings habitable for a community of around 100 virtually self-governing young people, under the eye of a resident warden and some tutors.¹⁵⁷

The 1929 Quadrangle remained the focal point of the new tertiary campus. The Administration building remained in that function, while the two accommodation wings on either side of the square became student bedrooms. The old dining-hall on the fourth side of the Quadrangle fulfilled that role again, although it was also a recreation area. The small buildings behind the dining-room continued to be used as stores for necessary maintenance items.

The buildings of the migrant period were utilised by the College. One of the large SSAR huts just to the north of the Quadrangle was used as a gymnasium: the other, to the east, does not seem to have been used at all. The migrant huts to the west, between the SSAR huts and a car park, provided three more accommodation blocks, another dining and recreation area and toilet and shower blocks. Since Scheyville was a purely residential campus, there was no provision for teaching rooms: all tuition was still conducted at Richmond.

Staff occupied the two cottages, on either side of the approach road to the Quadrangle, while to the south-east of the Administration building there were tennis and squash courts. At the north-east end of the complex, just above and to the east of the former parade ground there was a theatre, equipped as a cinema, which was available for lease.¹⁵⁸

The army had removed the heavy cooking equipment and some of the electrical installations in 1973, so the College provided small cooking equipment for individual student use. Hot meals prepared by the College appear to have been available only on the main Richmond campus.¹⁵⁹ As a result, by 1978 enterprising local people were running a cooperative grocery shop on the Scheyville campus, while another local family operated a small cafeteria.¹⁶⁰

The College did not renew the five-year lease in 1983, preferring to consolidate its student body on the single, large campus at Richmond.¹⁶¹ There is a considerable potential for oral history about the neglected five years of use by the young men and women of the College, which was the last major modifier of the Quadrangle and the migrant complex before Scheyville became a National Park.

¹⁵⁵ Above, section 3.

¹⁵⁶ B.M. Braithwaite, *Challenge and Change: the History of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, 1966-1991*, Richmond 1991, 67, 70, 73.

¹⁵⁷ Braithwaite, *Challenge and Change*, 95; *Hawkesbury Agricultural College Annual Report for 1978*.

¹⁵⁸ *Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Survey of Halls of Residence*, December 1978, 12, map of Scheyville campus. I am grateful to Susan Frank, Archivist of the University of Western Sydney, Richmond campus, for making this survey available.

¹⁵⁹ *Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Survey of Halls of Residence*, 1978.

¹⁶⁰ *Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Survey of Halls of Residence*, 1978.

¹⁶¹ Braithwaite, *Challenge and Change*, 95.

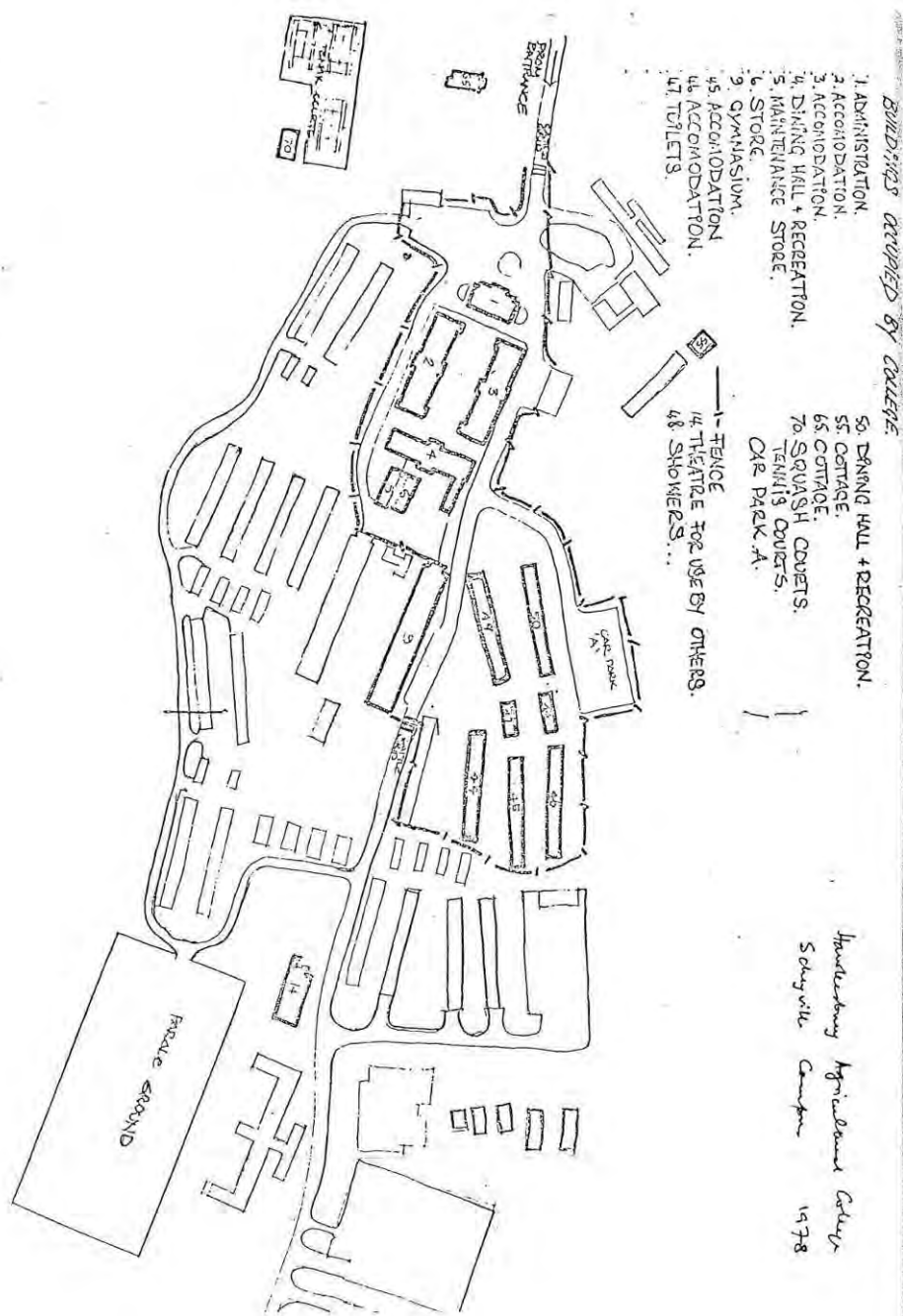


Figure 22
 Scheyville Campus of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, 1978
 Hawkesbury agricultural College, Survey of Halls of Residence, December 1978

2.10 New South Wales Police Tactical Response Group, 1985 to 1987

The New South Wales government saw a use for the abandoned complex at Scheyville in 1985, since the Police Tactical Response Group and the Special Weapons Operations Squad were anxious to have space to practise their arts.

The details are obscure but it is said that the police rehearsed methods of freeing hostages from their captors and it seems that their enthusiasm for firing advanced weapons of localised destruction had brutal effects on some of the surviving buildings outside the Quadrangle area.¹⁶²

Much of the unexploded ordnance which was still hazardous in 1996 when the National Park was dedicated probably dated from this period of Tactical Response and Special Weapons Operations. The army took responsibility in 1996 for detonating and clearing the ordnance. Some of it probably also originated from the military activities in the 1940s.¹⁶³

2.11 Threats Averted, 1983 to 1996

In the thirteen years between the closure of the Scheyville Campus of Hawkesbury Agricultural College and the gazettal of the National Park on 3 April 1996, there have been three major threats to the integrity of the central portion of the former Pitt Town Common: Sydney's new international airport in the early 1980s; a maximum security prison in 1987; and an extensive new urban development in 1992.

Sydney's New International Airport

The protracted search for a long-term answer to Sydney's perceived need for a new International Airport touched both Richmond air-base and the former Pitt Town Common in the 1980s. The suggestion that Pitt Town might be the chosen site led to the creation of the Hawkesbury-Hills Protest Committee and in February 1984 its Heritage Sub-Committee published an extensive discussion of the historical and heritage values of the Pitt Town area.

This report, edited by Linda and Rex Stubbs, the authors of the *History of Scheyville* which has been used frequently above, concluded that:

*The siting of an international airport [in the Pitt Town area] would represent a crime against the National Heritage, and on heritage grounds alone this proposal must be dropped immediately.*¹⁶⁴

Insofar as any suggested site for another airport has been categorically abandoned, Pitt Town seems to be secure from this massive intervention.

Maximum Security Prison

In July 1987 the State Minister for Corrective Services announced that the Scheyville camp site would become a maximum security prison, holding 400 prisoners. This would have created a complex larger than Parramatta Gaol. The only other maximum security prison built in twentieth-century New South Wales had been at Parklea in 1982.

The concept of such a prison close to Sydney and therefore convenient for family visits, while being located on a very large site which would act as a buffer zone between the prison and local inhabitants was strongly maintained by the Department of Corrective Services and even more strenuously condemned by the Hawkesbury community.¹⁶⁵

The proposal was never followed through.

¹⁶² Donnelly, *The Scheyville Experience*, 199; Irvine, Kelly, O'Brien, Poytress, Singer, 'cmp – Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct', 24.

¹⁶³ NSW Parks and Wildlife Group Service, *Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve: Plan of Management*, Sydney 2000, 42.

¹⁶⁴ Rex and Linda Stubbs, eds., "Sydney's Second International Airport": *Heritage Report*, Pitt Town, 1984, 21

¹⁶⁵ *Hawkesbury Gazette*, 29 July 1987, 1.

'A New Generation Macquarie Town', 1992

At the end of 1989 the State government announced proposals to release some 500 hectares of crown land at Scheyville for urban development. The Water Board and the Environment Protection Authority considered that the proposals for water recycling at Scheyville would be satisfactory.

In 1991 Graham and Carol Edds produced a conservation plan for the site for Hawkesbury City Council in which they recommended the removal of a large number of buildings from the site, primarily from the migrant period, due to their advanced state of deterioration, original poor construction and because they had been heavily vandalised. Most of the recommendations for the removal of buildings were implemented over the ensuing years, particularly once the place became part of the National Parks Reserve System.

In 1992 Hawkesbury City Council produced for public comment a Draft Local Environmental Plan for Scheyville, sub-titled 'A New Generation Macquarie Town'. This plan attempted to rezone land in such a way that 'both environmental conservation and urban development objectives' could be achieved. A glossy 12-page brochure with a double-page colour spread showing a brave new masterplan prepared by McKenzie Land Planning Services in March was issued for comment in August 1992.

The masterplan had the benefit of a cluster of recent studies of the threatened area:

- Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd, Water Cycle Management Report
- Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd, Surface Water Investigation Report
- Wendy Thorp, Historical Context and Discussion Paper
- Graham Edds & Associates, Conservation Plan
- Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd, Natural Habitat Study
- Mary Dallas & Kerri Navin, Archaeological Study
- R. Johnston, Social Plan
- Retail Surveys Australia Pty Ltd, Study of Retail Needs
- Prince Geotechnique Pty Ltd, Geological Assessment
- Stapleton & Hallam, Transportation Environments and Access Study.

These studies, as interpreted by the City Council, led to the proposal for some 4 800 housing units within a self-contained community of about 20 000 people, with 'its own village style shopping centre, a community centre, three primary schools and a high school as well as a number of sporting and recreation facilities aimed at meeting the needs of the resident community'.¹⁶⁶ (Figure 23)

Although individual buildings of historical significance were to be preserved, there seems to have been little consideration or appreciation of the broader cultural landscape which would have been destroyed by the development.

After a short period of vigorous public debate led by the Concerned Residents Against Development of Longneck and Environs, the City Council, under the leadership of Mayor Wendy Sledge, unanimously decided in November 1992 that Council would 'not rush into the Scheyville proposal', but instead would 'liaise with the Department of Planning regarding Scheyville's relationship to the Metropolitan Strategy, as well as undertaking more research into the environmental impacts of the Scheyville proposal'.¹⁶⁷ This was essentially the end of the New Generation Macquarie Town.

¹⁶⁶ Hawkesbury City Council, *Scheyville Draft Local Environmental Plan: a New Generation Macquarie Town*, Windsor 1992.

¹⁶⁷ *Penrith Press*, 8 September 1992,4; *Hornsby Shire Times*, 17 November 1992; *Hawkesbury Gazette*, 18 November 1992.

2.12 Scheyville National Park and Longneck Lagoon

Less than four years after the proposal to construct a new suburb on the central portion of Scheyville's European history, Scheyville National Park was proclaimed on 3 April 1996 (Figure 24)

The new Park of 954 hectares included much more than the area occupied by the Pitt Town Cooperative Village, its successor farms and the military and migrant facilities created close to the farm, although this was a central concern. The Administrative building of the 1929 quadrangle became the administrative headquarters of the Park

The new Park included the area around Longneck Lagoon, originally a wetland of importance to Indigenous people and, as a result of European road-making, a deeper, permanent lagoon in the twentieth century. The wetlands had not been made available for sub-division when the Common was partly sold off after 1893, although quarrying for Hawkesbury sandstone on the edge of the water had brought some extractive industry to its environs in the early decades of the twentieth century. The Sydney-Newcastle Natural Gas and Liquid Petroleum pipeline in more recent times has been trenched through the south-east corner of the lagoon's immediate hinterland (and also passes through part of the National Park near the general cemetery). In June 1971 the lagoon and about 60 hectares around were declared a Wildlife Refuge under the Parks and Wildlife Group Act and seven trustees were appointed to take general control of management. In April 1978 the Longneck Lagoon Field Studies Centre was established. This centre has been a valuable educational tool, cooperating with the Department of Education.¹⁶⁸

In 1996, the Longneck Lagoon Wildlife Refuge was transferred to the new National Park, and a wildlife corridor, which happens to contain the site of Macquarie's first Pitt Town, was created to join the Lagoon area to the farm/military/migrant area to the south.¹⁶⁹

Due to a combination of circumstances including the Edds report, the condition of the buildings and the natural heritage management focus of the NPWS at that time, there was some precipitate and unfortunate destruction of elements in the built environment. This followed in the wake of the police and military gun practice of previous decades that had left the buildings in a dilapidated condition.

But as an awareness of the significance of the cultural environment and of the Service's statutory obligations to protect all aspects of heritage has become much more significant over the past Decade, there has been a heightened understanding of the many layers of values, pre-Aboriginal, Aboriginal and European, natural, modified and constructed.

The DECC has undertaken a wide range of works and studies over the last few years.

- Oral history projects and reunions relating to the OTU and Migrant periods have been successfully completed.
- The site has been the subject of numerous studies on the natural and cultural environment by tertiary students
- An educational package relating to the high school curricula has been prepared to promote the site for use by school students.
- An interpretive walk relating to the migrant era has been developed.
- Conservation works have been undertaken on the SSAR huts.
- The SSAR huts have undergone repairs and reconstruction involving new joinery and windows.
- Designs have been prepared for the reconstruction of the burnt sections of the Officer's Mess.
- An asbestos audit has been prepared and a programme of decontamination is underway.
- A weed management programme has been commenced targeting African olive and blackberry.

¹⁶⁸ Longneck Lagoon Field Studies Centre, *History of Longneck Lagoon Field Studies Centre*, [1980s].

¹⁶⁹ NSW Parks and Wildlife Group Service, *Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve: Plan of Management*, 23-4.

A shared strategy in heritage management and interpretation involving the DECC, Powerhouse Museum, Historic Houses Trust and the Migration Heritage Centre is currently being developed. The vision of this strategy is to engage the wider community in integrated learning experiences across the Northern Cumberland Plain. The natural and historical environments of Scheyville National Park will be a key destination.

In addition there is a current proposal to hold a "Skyville" Music Festival at the site. It is anticipated that this will be an annual festival event and will attract a large number of people who will be housed over a long weekend at the site in tent accommodation.

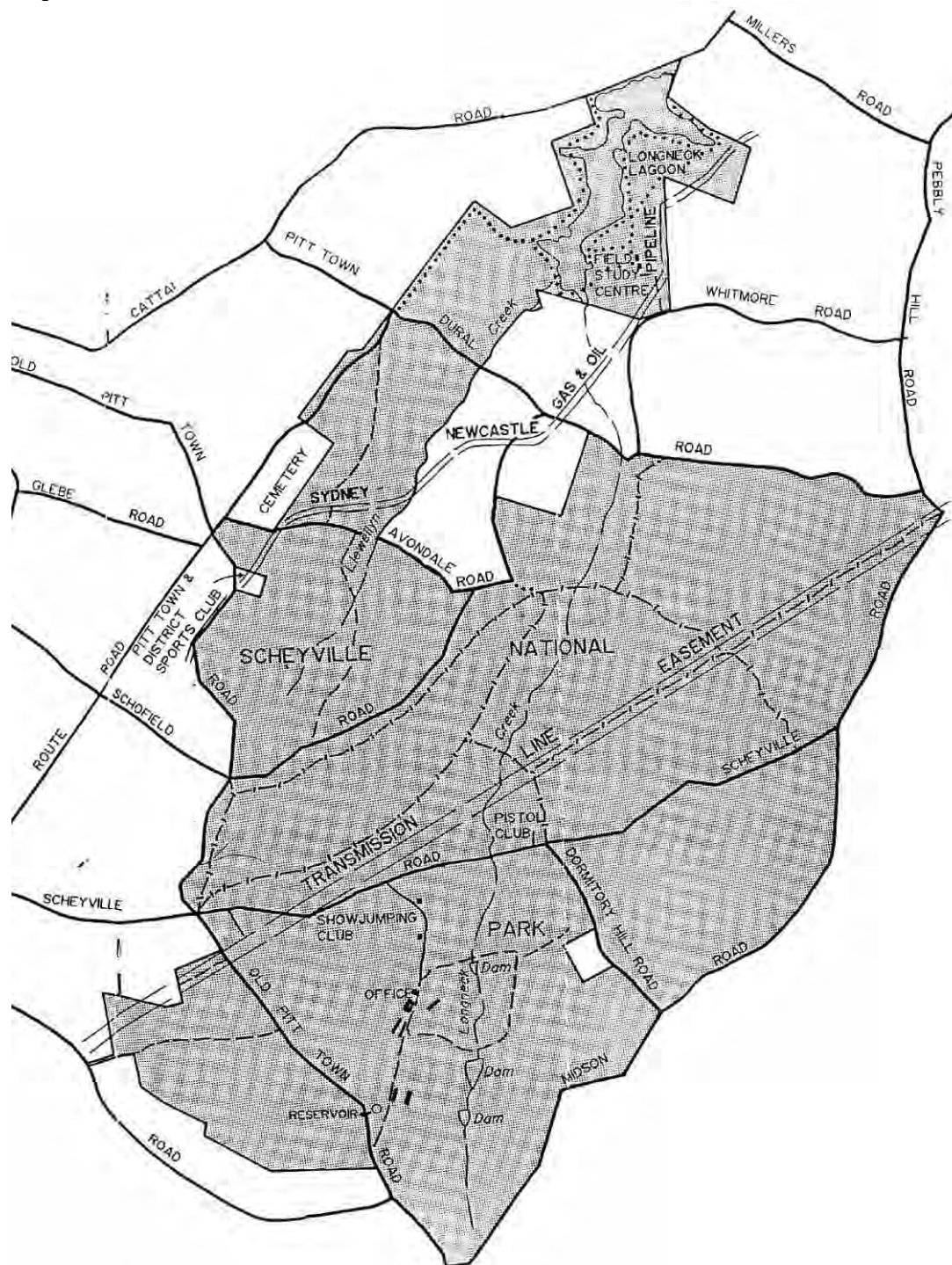


Figure 24 Scheyville National Park boundaries in 2000. Parks and Wildlife Division.

2.13 The NSW State Historical Themes

Thirty-five historical themes have been identified as relevant to New South Wales. The following state historical themes can be attributed to the site.

Aboriginal	the site contains evidence of Aboriginal occupation before colonial settlement.
Agriculture	the site of three rare and controversial social and agricultural ventures in the late 19 and early 20th centuries.
Environment	much of the site has been modified for agricultural use, however is now the largest protected remnant of endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland.
Township	the first three developments included all of the common township elements such as: housing, a school, church and community halls as well as dairy.
Migration	the site of a large scale migration scheme in the post World War 2 era to 1965.
Labour	skills in the agricultural industry were an integral component of the early agricultural training.
Defence	the training of services men during World War II and the Officer Training Unit from 1965 to 1973.
Housing	the area provided housing for its occupiers from the first European occupation and continues today although to a very limited extent.

SCHEYVILLE NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Volume 2

Physical Analysis and Management



March 2009

Prepared for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Climate Change



**NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service**



Disclaimer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scheyville National Park is located in the Hawkesbury region, approximately 50 km north west of Sydney and 5 km east of the town of Windsor. It is situated within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council. The Park covers an area of 954 hectares. Scheyville National Park has a multi-layered history which provides great potential for the place as a destination for cultural tourism and education.

This draft CMP was commissioned by The Parks and Wildlife Division (PWD) of the NSW Dept of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). This corporate entity is legislatively responsible for environmental land management and conservation of places of natural and cultural heritage value. Management is by the Cumberland North Area of Sydney Region, which occupies an office in one of the quadrangle buildings in the Scheyville Camp area.

Scheyville National Park has a rich history of use and occupation. The main Aboriginal tribe of the Cumberland Plain was that of the Darug people. The study area had a substantial mobile Aboriginal population centred around the resources of the Upper Hawkesbury River until the creation of the Scheyville Common in 1804. The subsequent increase in agricultural activity saw a general movement by Aboriginal people away from the area and by the 1850s few were still living in the vicinity of Pitt Town, having moved camp further downstream.

Historical use of the Park began with its establishment as the Nelson Common in the early days of settlement. The first major intensification of use came with the establishment of the Government Collective Farm in the 1890s, which was transformed first into the Casual Labour Farm, and then the Dreadnought Farm.

The Dreadnought Scheme was a government initiative in which boys from England were trained at Scheyville to work on Australian farms. The scheme ran from 1910 to the 1940's, when Scheyville became a military training area. During the post-war period from the 1940's to 1964 Scheyville was an important migrant hostel in Australia, and from 1965 to 1973 it was used as the Officer Training Unit for the Australian Army, training conscripted men as officers for the Vietnam War. From 1973 until the place was dedicated as National Park in 1996, it saw a variety of community uses including by the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

The main periods of occupation may be summarised as follows:

1. Aboriginal Occupation
2. Nelson/Pitt Town Common 1804-1893
3. Pitt Town Co-operative Settlement 1893-1896
4. Casual Labour Farm 1896-1910
5. First Dreadnought establishment 1910s
6. Internment camp WW1
7. Dreadnought resumption
8. New Dreadnought era 1930s
9. WWII 1930s/40s
10. Migrant camp 1949-1964
11. Scheyville Officer Training Unit (OTU) 1964-1973
12. Hawkesbury Agricultural College
13. Tactical Response Group
14. Park and Wildlife Group 1996 to present

Scheyville is an exceptional example of a layered cultural landscape with evidence of different uses from the early decades of the colony to the present day. Scheyville has retained its rural setting and this has contributed to the preservation of an outstanding heritage landscape of state significance, with a high degree of legibility.

Scheyville is able to demonstrate a long series of initiatives related to key government policies that have responded to the changing national and international environment, and had a major historical impact on Australian concepts of nationhood. Each phase of occupation at Scheyville has left a physical mark on the landscape and many of the recent phases of the history are richly evocative and resonate with themes and stories of direct relevance to contemporary history and debate in Australia. These include themes of rural life, immigration, military recruitment and training.

The continuing and vibrant interest shown by past residents of the place, and demonstrated through responses to Reunions and “Back To Scheyville” days and events, is indicative of the strong social values that the place still has, particularly for those associated with the Migrant Camp and the Officer Training Unit phases.

The 1804 Pitt Town Common was the first of a series of innovative agricultural ventures introduced at Scheyville to improve the economic and social circumstances of the rural community. Part of the common introduced by Governor King, is still discernible in the park boundaries. The Cooperative Farm and the Casual Labour Farm that followed are still present in the archaeological record and the extant manager’s residence also relates to this period. These phases of occupation and development in Scheyville’s history make a significant contribution to our understanding of food production in the early New South Wales colony as well as the impact of unemployment and skilled labour shortages in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are also associated with William F. Schey who was a significant figure in youth labour schemes at the time.

The Dreadnought phase is of state and national significance as the largest Dreadnought scheme farm in Australia and as a typical example of British child migration schemes. It is also significant that it was funded by monies originally donated to counter the perceived threat to a newly-independent Australia from the new Japanese Navy (by purchasing “Dreadnought” naval ships), and that a major aim of the scheme was to populate Australia with young men who could form a nucleus of a force to defend Australia from the possible Asian threat.

The Quadrangle Buildings from the Dreadnought phase are particularly significant both for their rarity, being the only purpose-built Dreadnought structures still extant, and for their landmark location overlooking the entranceway and early farm landscapes. The quadrangle buildings are modest in scale and design but are largely unaltered. They are significant for their ability to demonstrate past institutional uses related the Dreadnought and OTU phase and have had continuous administration uses since 1929.

The remains of the Officer Training Unit operating from Scheyville from the Vietnam War period are particularly significant at state level for their rarity and their ability to demonstrate the training and social practices of the cadets and officers that might otherwise not be easily seen by the general public. Until relatively recently, the role of Australian soldiers in Vietnam has not been publicly acknowledged or commemorated. This gives Scheyville the potential to be a profoundly significant site for acknowledging, commemorating and educating the public about the experience of those that fought in the Vietnam War.

The migrant phase at Scheyville is of state and possibly national significance for its rare combination of physical, documentary and oral evidence. The remaining SSAR huts, coupled with the building pads from structures demolished in the 1980s and 1990s, give the site an easy legibility that makes it highly significant and, coupled with the ready public access, comparatively rare. The site size and layout is illustrative of the scale of post-WWII migration to Australia and is of state significance.

The SSAR huts are themselves of state significance as rare survivors of this building type. The survival of more than one SSAR hut on site is also rare according to recent studies of prefabricated buildings of this type.

The historic remains in Scheyville National Park provide evidence of an evolving cultural landscape of state significance. The Dreadnought Farm, Migrant Camp and OTU phases are of particular significance

to the state, with the other phases being of considerable contributory significance in understanding the evolution of the landscape of the site.

Scheyville National Park will be managed in order:

- To create a lively, interesting and educational place that conserves and promotes the site's cultural and natural values.
- To develop Scheyville National Park as a key regional destination for cultural tourism and education.
- To develop partnerships with agencies and the private sector in interpretation, adaptive reuse and promotion.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Study Area

Scheyville National Park is situated in the Hawkesbury region near Windsor, approximately 50 km north-west of Sydney. It is within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council. The great majority of the National Park is within the catchment of Long Neck Lagoon. Its boundaries are:

- Midson Road and Scheyville Road to the east;
- Old Pitt Town Road and Old Stock Route Road to the west;
- Pitt Town Dural road and Cattai Road to the north; and
- The backs of rural and residential properties facing Saunders Road to the south, and boundaries with rural and residential properties along Avondale, Whitmore, Greenfield, Phipps and Old Stock Route Roads in the lower Longneck Creek catchment. (Figure 1)

1.2 Background

Volume 1 of this conservation management plan (cmp) provided the historical context and background for the plan. This volume, volume 2, provides the management framework for the site. It includes the physical analysis of the park, the statement of significance and guiding policies and management actions. Volume 3 of the report contains the appendices which provide a more detailed level of information on various aspects of the place.

1.3 Project Objectives and Outcomes

The aim of this cmp is to provide:

- a synthesis of the history of Scheyville National Park
- a statement of significance
- policy direction for park management in relation to the historic heritage within the park
- an implementation schedule outlining ongoing, immediate, medium and short term actions

The desired outcomes of the cmp are to:

- support the long-term conservation of the study area within Scheyville National Park;
- assist in the development of Scheyville as a cultural and educational tourism destination;
- support and enhance the long-term association between former occupants of Scheyville and their families and the site;
- inform the revision of the Plan of Management for Scheyville National Park; and
- ensure best practice management of cultural heritage values.

1.4 Approach

The following approach was adopted in the preparation of the cmp.

1. An integrated, or whole-of-landscape, approach with regard to the identification and assessment of all cultural (both Historic and pre-contact Aboriginal) and natural values.
2. An emphasis on identifying the social/community values of the place and framing policies to manage and maintain them.
3. Development and clear articulation of a vision statement/head policy for the place (in line with the management of Scheyville National Park as a tourism and education destination).

1.5 Guiding Documentation

The Draft *Sydney Regional Cultural Heritage Management Strategy* provides guidelines and strategies for the management of cultural heritage within the Region, including Scheyville National Park.

The Scheyville National Park Plan of Management (PoM) 2000 forms the statutory basis for the management of the park and the historical places within it. This cmp is intended to inform the PoM and any future revisions of it.



Figure 1 Location Map (Source: NPWS)

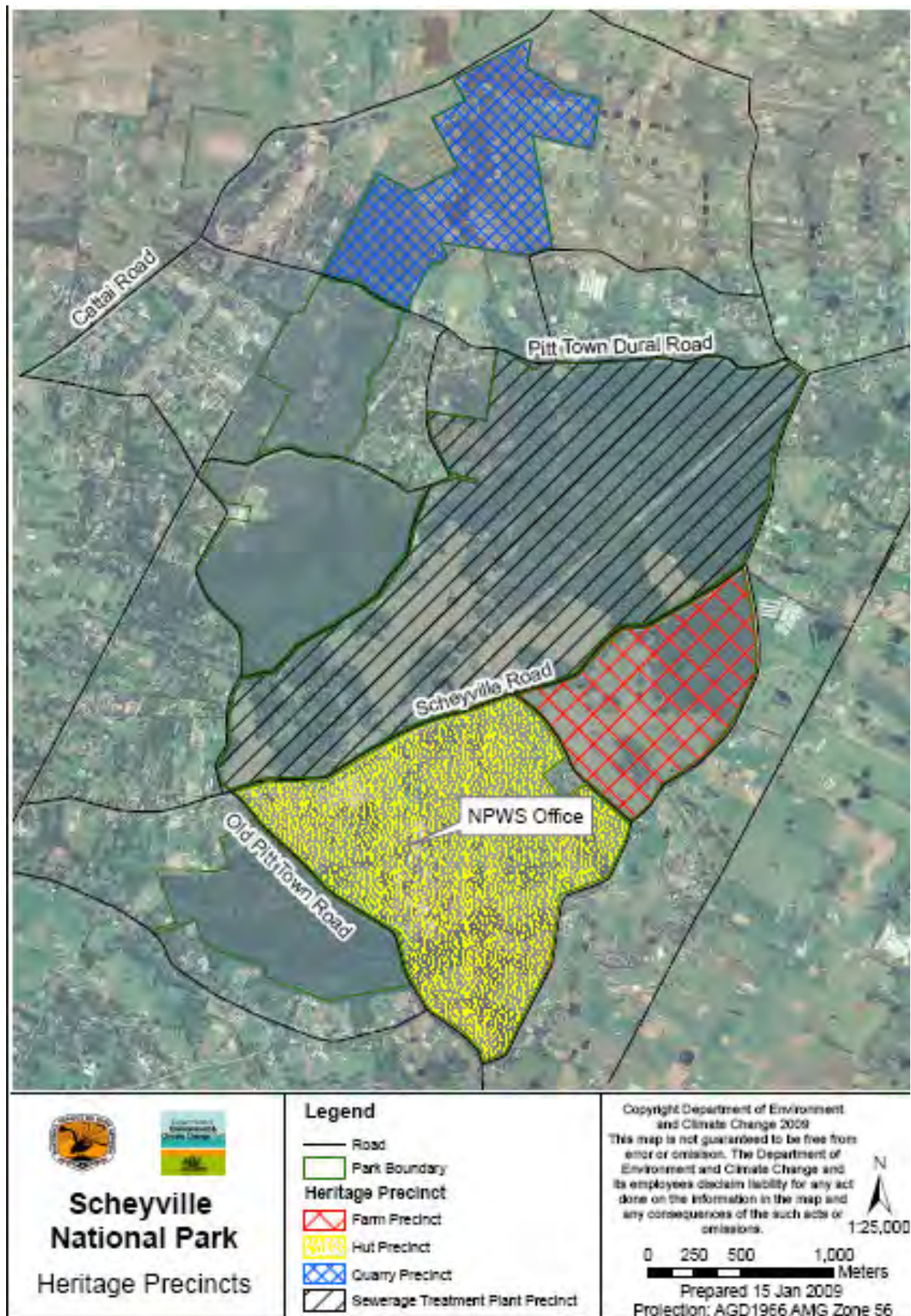


Figure 2 Key precincts covered by this conservation management plan

1.6 Existing Information and New Research

The information that forms the basis of this cmp is the result of the analysis and synthesis of existing documentary and oral research relating to the Study Area. It is not intended to replicate the findings from these individual reports and they should be referred to for more detailed information. In particular the following reports are considered to be companion documents that should be referred for greater detail on particular aspects of the place:

Booker et al 2002 "Scheyville National Park Conservation Management Plan for the Hut Precinct", conservation plan prepared for the University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture Heritage Conservation Programme and the NSW NPWS.

Edds, G & Associates, "Conservation Plan for Scheyville Site Former 'Officer Training Camp'", unpublished report to Hawkesbury City Council, March 1991.

Hamilton et al 2004 "Scheyville National Park Historical Research and Oral History. Final report" unpublished report prepared for the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Parks and Wildlife Division.

Irvine A et al 2002 "Conservation Management Plan-Scheyville Quadrangle Precinct" conservation plan prepared for the University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture Heritage Conservation Programme and the NSW NPWS.

Mahler J et al 2002 "Scheyville Conservation Management Plan (cmp) The former Farm Precinct" prepared for the University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture Heritage Conservation Programme and the NSW NPWS.

The Cumberland North Area provided the consultant team with access to all detailed studies, oral histories, historical photos, maps and plans relevant to the study area.

Where there were gaps in information, or where the information was not of an acceptable standard, these have been identified and relevant research by the consultant team undertaken.

1.7 Authorship

This plan is substantially based on an original draft by David Beaver. The principal authors of the original draft were David Beaver, Graham Edds & Associates, Ian Jack and Wayne Brennan. The work of Sue Andersen and Mary Ann Hamilton was extensively referenced in the history section. Substantial editing and additional text has been added by Cath Snelgrove in order to complete the document. This has been done using contributions by Jonathon Sanders, Col Davidson and Jacqui Goddard.

1.8 Limitations

The various authors involved in the preparation of this report over a number of years has made completion of this cmp difficult and has led to a protracted period of writing and editing.. There have been some changes and new proposals made for the site in the mean time which are not dealt with in detail in this report. These include a proposal to host a "Skyville" music festival at the site and the uncovering of sites by fire in 2006 and by controlled burns in 2008. These sites need further recording and analysis.

It is not intended to replicate readily available existing information in this cmp. Previously collated information on the physical layout and description of the site has therefore not been provided in any detail and the reports identified in 1.6 below should be consulted for further information on these areas. Similarly oral history testimonies have not been included in their entirety in this report and the relevant oral history tapes, transcripts or summary reports should be consulted for further information.

1.9 Acknowledgments

Authors of previous conservation plans for the place in particular the Masters in Heritage Conservation student authors.

Sue Anderson, Mary Anne Hamilton and Laila Elmoos - Social/oral historians

Iain Stuart, JCIS consultants for information and advice on the migration and Vietnam periods at Scheyville.

Megan Covey, Ranger, Cumberland North, Parks and Wildlife Division, DECC

Robin Aitken, Project Officer, Cumberland North, Parks and Wildlife Division, DECC

Sharon Veale, Research Historian, Cultural Heritage Division, DECC

All photos by David Beaver 2005/6 unless otherwise stated.

2 PHYSICAL OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This section provides an overview and description of the natural and cultural heritage values of the Study Area within the context of Scheyville National Park and the Cumberland Plain. The information has been sourced from various documents, reports and surveys held in the collection of Scheyville National Park.

2.1 Regional Context

Scheyville National Park is located on the rim of the Cumberland Plain near the Hawkesbury River at Pitt Town Bottoms. The Cumberland Plain is a gently undulating saucer-shaped depression within the Sydney Basin, ranging in altitude from 20 to 100 metres above sea level. It consists of a deep, almost unbroken layer of Wianamatta shale overlying Hawkesbury Sandstone. Poorly-consolidated Tertiary alluvial deposits, mainly clays and gravels, represent ancient higher floodplains of the Hawkesbury River.¹ Recent (Quaternary) sand, silt and clay alluvium occurs along the present floodplain of the Hawkesbury River. The heavy clay soils of the plain are poorly drained and poorly aerated, hence swampy depressions are common.²

2.2 Biodiversity

Scheyville National Park contains the largest protected remnant of Cumberland Plain Woodland. In June 1997 this community, now much reduced in area, was listed as an endangered ecological community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995 due to fragmentation and the numerous threats to its integrity.

Most of the wetlands along the Hawkesbury have been altered by draining or damming. Longneck Lagoon has been dammed but is an important site for waterbirds and other animals and is listed on the Register of the National Estate and in Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 20 (Hawkesbury-Nepean). Eight birds protected under international treaties and 5 birds (2 wetland and 3 terrestrial species) listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act have been recorded in Scheyville National Park. Appendix 4 contains a list of the birds, mammals and fish of Scheyville National Park.

2.3 Hydrology

Scheyville National Park lies within the Cattai catchment of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River which includes Longneck Lagoon and most of its catchment, including most of Llewellyn Creek and Longneck Creek and their tributaries. (Figure 25) Many of the creeks within the park only flow after rain. A number of farm dams were previously constructed along these watercourses, the majority of which dry out during long periods of dry weather. The walls of the dams have in most cases been breached to permit natural flow along the creeks however some armouring of the breaches is necessary to prevent soil movement during heavy rains. The 1:100 year flood line encompasses Longneck Lagoon, all of the area north of Pitt Town Dural Road (including the road) and part of the Llewellyn Creek catchment south of the road. Avondale Road is also frequently cut by floodwaters.

During the 1970s Longneck Lagoon had a much lower water level than at present. Upgrading of Cattai Road in the 1980s led to a partial damming of the lagoon and a permanently higher, less fluctuating water level. Overflow from Longneck Lagoon, and backwater flooding from the Hawkesbury River, enters the river at Canning Reach.

¹ Taylor 1970.

² Fairley and Moore, 1989.



Longneck Catchment Map





 Catchment_boundary.shp
 Scheyville_mask.shp

Figure 25 Aerial photograph showing catchment area of Longneck Creek in red and National Park boundaries

2.4 Vegetation

Cumberland Plain Grey Box/Ironbark Woodland

Most of the central section of Scheyville National Park is situated on Wianamatta shale and supports a Cumberland Plain Grey Box/Ironbark Woodland dominated by grey box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus creba*) and forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). (Figure 26) Benson and Howell (1990) estimated that only 6% of the original extent of this community remained in 1988. Scheyville National Park contains the largest single remnant of this community. This type of woodland, which occurs on hilly shale country, was once extensive around the edge of the Cumberland Plain. It is markedly different to woodlands found on Hawkesbury sandstone and to remnant communities of grey box woodland that occur on the drier flats of the central Cumberland Plain between Parramatta and Penrith. Whilst grey box and forest red gum are represented in vegetation over most of the Cumberland Plain, ironbark is not common on the drier flats and only becomes co-dominant on hillier shale country such as in Scheyville National Park.

The understorey is dominated by blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*), a colonising shrub which often occurs in dense stands. Grasses and herbs make up the ground cover including kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*), hedgehog grass (*Echinopogon caespitosus*), wire grass (*Aristida vagans*), *Microlaena stipoides* and *Cymbopogon refractus*. Cumberland Plain Woodland is listed as an endangered ecological community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The grey box/ironbark woodlands of Scheyville National Park fall into this category. Identified threats to the survival of the remaining Cumberland Plain Woodland include clearing, grazing, housing development, increases in nutrient loads and exotic plants. The endangered pea bush *Pultenaea parviflora* has been recorded in this community in the section of the park between Old Pitt Town Road and Saunders Road³

Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland

On a ridge of well drained sandy soil between Pitt Town Dural Road and Avondale road, occurs a small patch of Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland dominated by hard-leaved scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus sclerophylla*) and narrow-leaved apple (*Angophora bakeri*). Broad-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) occurs as a minor associated species within this community. The understorey consists primarily of sclerophyllous shrubs, with *Hakea sericea*, *Melaleuca nodosa*, riceflower (*Pimelia spp.*), and geebung (*Persoonia linearis*) amongst a variety of grass ground cover. The threatened pea flower *Dillwynia tenuifolia* is also to be found within the low ground cover of this vegetation community. This vegetation association is considered vulnerable as most areas of the Castlereagh Woodland have been cleared. The only other sites where similar vegetation is afforded any protection within NPWS estate are within Castlereagh and Windsor Downs Nature Reserves. Part of the Castlereagh Woodland within Scheyville National Park was disturbed by gravel extraction, however these areas are regenerating well although a number of trees appear in a mallee form.⁴

Shale/Gravel Transition Forest

A Shale/Gravel Transition Forest occurs on a transitional zone between Wianamatta Shale and Tertiary alluvial soils located west of Llewellyn Creek between Longneck Lagoon and Avondale Road. The vegetation grades from a paperbark forest along the creek to an open forest of ironbark and grey box. Two species listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* are also found in this area: the pea flower *Dillwynia tenuifolia* and small populations of downy wattle (*Acacia pubescens*). There is also a small area of park containing both these rare plants between Longneck Creek and Avondale Road. This area of the park contains the second largest known population of downy wattle and the largest reserved population of this species.

Freshwater Wetlands

Longneck Lagoon is located in the northern section of Scheyville National Park. It supports emergent reedland in zones of permanent water, which are dominated by *Eleocharis sphacelata* with minor association of other reeds and rushes including bullrush/cumbungi (*Typha orientalis*). Areas around the

³ Kinhill, 1990.

⁴ NPWS.

lagoon perimeter adjacent to the main water body are seasonal wetland zones. Rushland communities within this zone are populated with *Juncus usitatus* with associated herblands including various knotweeds (*Persicaria spp.*). Immediately surrounding Longneck Lagoon are stands of tall shrubland and woodland. Water tolerant trees growing in this area include *Melaleuca styphelioides*, *Melaleuca linariifolia* and swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*). Some areas surrounding Longneck Lagoon, particularly the eastern edges, have been planted with indigenous species. The small dams on creeks within Scheyville National Park are dominated by reeds (*Typha spp.*), with other wetland herbs and grasses also present.

Approximately 30% of Scheyville National Park is a grassland dominated by introduced grasses. Scattered large trees, predominantly grey box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), and small patches of woodland occur throughout the cleared paddock areas. Since the removal of domestic stock, which was completed in May 1997, considerable regeneration has been occurring around the isolated trees and in woodland areas.

Transitional Melaleuca Forest

A paperbark forest is located along Llewellyn Creek near the western margin of the Catchment. The soil type here is tertiary alluvium. The main species are the Paperbarks (*Melaleuca styphelioides*, *Melaleuca linariifolia* and *Melaleuca decora*) in the better drained soils and (*Melaleuca nodosa*) found on the higher gravel/sandy loams. Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) and Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) are found amongst the melaleucas.

The Melaleuca forest attracts bird life during the summer months when the Paperbarks are in flower. This colourful display not only attracts nectar feeders but also birds preying on insects drawn to the flowers.

Cleared Grassland

Around 60% of the Longneck Catchment has been cleared since European settlement primarily for the grazing of stock. The main grasses now present are introduced species such as Paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*), Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), Common Couch (*Cynodon dactylon*) and the invasive weed African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*).

Seed eating birds such as the Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) and Red-browed Finches (*Neochmia temporalis*) utilise the cleared grassland. Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Masked Plovers (*Vanellus miles*) and other ground feeding birds have also been recorded here. A list of species located at the park can be found at Appendix 4.

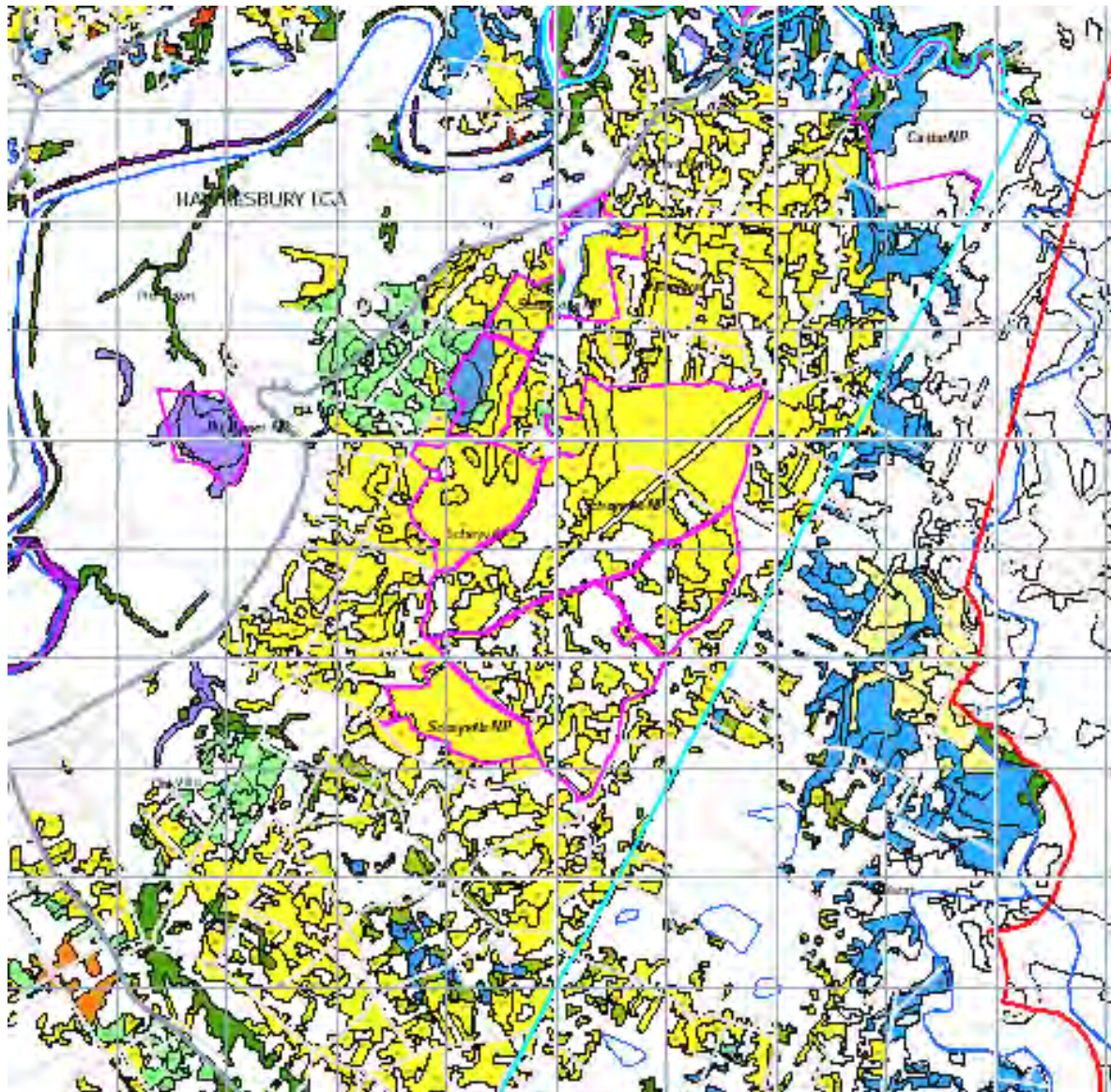


Figure 26 Vegetation Map of Scheyville showing extent of Shale Plains Woodland (yellow)
(Source DECC)

2.5 Aboriginal heritage

The study area has been heavily disturbed by over 200 years European farming activities which is likely to have destroyed many Aboriginal sites. An archaeological survey by Dallas and Navin in 1990 recorded 16 sites with most of these concentrated on the margins of Longneck Lagoon and along Longneck and Llewellyn Creeks. The study concluded that it is likely that the pattern of Aboriginal occupation of the Longneck creek system is represented by the site distribution and density seen at present. The greatest densities of Aboriginal sites 'occur within a kilometre of Longneck Lagoon itself while the number of sites and their size rapidly decrease with further distance upstream. This would equate with the focus of natural resources on the Lagoon and the less abundant resources of the less well watered upper catchment.'⁵

⁵ Dallas M & Navin K. 1990. Archaeological Study of The Scheyville Development Area At Scheyville, NSW.

Most of the sites which include stone cores, open artefact scatters and occupation sites have been disturbed by activities such as quarrying, floor scouring, erosion from stock and vehicle traffic and flooding. The sites are not easily recognisable or interpreted to visitors.

Dallas and Navin concluded that the recorded sites are well represented elsewhere in the region and are not considered to be rare. The main importance of the recorded sites was their ability to describe Aboriginal occupation of the Lagoon environment. Three of the sites were considered to have particular archaeological significance warranting preservation and management. These sites are NPWS # 45 -- 5 -- 639, NPWS site 45 -- 5 -- 646, and NPWS site 45 -- 5 -- 643. The remainder of the Scheyville sites were assessed as 'having little or no significance in terms of scientific research potential and are either severely disturbed or damaged or in highly unstable environmental contexts which greatly affect their long-term preservation.'⁶

The 1990 survey was conducted under conditions of poor surface visibility due to the presence of thick pasture grasses in many areas. However, with the change in land use to national park, there are opportunities to undertake surface inspections particularly in conjunction with major burning and weed removal operations when the groundcover has been temporarily removed.

Scheyville National Park is located in the area of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council. On-going liaison is maintained with the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council in regard to the management of Aboriginal sites within the park. The Aboriginal sites are valuable educational resources for the present community and are important

2.6 Views and vistas



Figure 28 Park-like landscape of the Farm precinct with regenerating Cumberland Plain Woodland, 2005

Views and vistas today form an important part of the Scheyville cultural landscape. There are important views to and within the farm precinct, along the entry roads and to the administration and quadrangle buildings.

There are important view corridors between key elements of the Farm Precinct that are crucial to the legibility of the cultural landscape. (Figures 28-32) Most of the farm buildings were clustered in the basin area near Longneck Creek. These were overlooked by residential buildings, initially located on Dormitory Hill and later on the ridge to the west with the construction of the Quadrangle. The silos were also located on the higher ground and these remain prominent landmarks. Important view corridors are illustrated below:

⁶ Ibid.



Figure 29 View towards Scheyville Camp from Dormitory Hill (View C, View A), 2005



Figure 30 View towards Dormitory Hill from twin silos (View C), 2005



Figure 31 View E with brick cistern and water tank at left, 2005.



Figure 32 Panorama of Farm Precinct from below Quadrangle (View E), 2005

In addition there are important views from the entrance road up to the administration block and quadrangle buildings (Figure 34). These views are largely preserved through the sparse revegetation in these areas.

Once inside the quadrangle the open space views ending in the two palm trees provides a significant uninterrupted vista. (Figure 35)



Figure 34 Quadrangle building approach



Figure 35 Quadrangle Courtyard



Figure 33 Significant View Corridors

- A View from farm manager's house to single silo in site of old dairy
- B View from farm manager's house to ruins of barn and sheep dipping area
- C View from single silo to double silos
- D View from ruins of barn to double silos
- E View from ruins of bun to Quadrangle
- F View from pump house to double silos
- G Filtered view through trees from site of orchards to ruins of Barn

2.7 Overview of Buildings and Historical Archaeology by Occupation Phase

This section provides a list of all of the buildings and features that survive on the site today as well as those demolished structures that may survive in the archaeological record. Physical analysis reveals that most of the remaining buildings retain some of their original fabric, although most, except Buildings No 41, 48, 51 and S1, have undergone alteration since their original construction with the introduction of new fabric. All of the existing buildings should be regarded as having high social significance to the many thousands who lived, trained on the site.

Key photographs of the buildings are included in the main body of the report. Copies of the some of the other large numbers of photographs of the buildings and activities on the site are included in Appendix 2 for reference purposes.

Historic and contemporary photographs have been used to show the nature of the surviving remains on the site. Detailed physical descriptions of the features described can be found in Marler et al 2002, Irvine et al 2002 and Booker et al 2002. The original building numbering system developed by Edds has been continued for ease of use in this section.

The table below lists the buildings and features that remain extant today.

Names	Date built/ phase	Edds no.	Figure no.
Administration Building	1929/ Dreadnought	1	34
Dormitory Buildings	1929/ Dreadnought	2,3	35
Former Dining Room and Kitchen	1929/ Dreadnought	4	
Sub station	1929/ Dreadnought	51	
Palm trees	1929/Dreadnought	L1	35
Plantings along entrance road from Scheyville Road and conifers next along road	1920s-1940s/Dreadnought	L2	
Memorial Drive East Cottage	1929/Farm	H1	38
Underground water tank	1891-1915/Farm	-	
Beehive cistern	1891-1915/Farm	-	44
Tank and trough	1891-1915/Farm	-	
(Memorial Drive West Cottage) Farm Managers residence	1897/farm	H2	38
Tank	1891-1915/Farm	-	46
Twin silos and second dairy	1930s/Farm	S1	55-58
Hut Second store	1950s/migrant	5	
Western SSAR Hut	1950s/ migrant	7	
Eastern SSAR Hut	1950s/ migrant	9	
Hut (former store)	1950s/migrant	6	
Hut-store	1950s/migrant	56	
Ablution block	1950s/migrant	41,47	
Former hospital: maternity wing/infirmary	1950s/migrant	57 (A)	
Sewerage Treatment Plant and associated features	1950s/ migrant	-	
Boilers	1950s/migrant		
Parade ground and conifers, eucalypts and casuarina	1940s-1960s/migrant/OTU	L4	79-84, 85
Transport compound	1950s/60s/OTU	C,D	
Concrete water tower	1950s migrant		85
Elevated Water Tower (EWT)	1964/OTU	W2	
Rifle range	1964/OTU	S9	
Squash court	1967/OTU	69	
NPWS maintenance shed	Post 1991		

10 brick veneer residences: cu-de-sac sub division	Post 1967/OTU	S11	
Magazine building	1967/OTU	-	

The table below lists the buildings, structures and features that survive in the archaeological record or as ruins including those buildings that were demolished in the 1980s and 90s. See also Figure 109.

Farm remains including fencing, yards, gates, well etc	1891-1915/Farm	AS4	40, 42, 46, 47, 49, 50, 54
Pump shed footings and post	1891-1915/Farm		
Low level stock bridge	1891-1915/Farm		
Sawmill (posts and floor)	1891-1915/Farm		
Fruit packing shed (post and stumps)	1891-1915/Farm		
Vegetable packing shed	1891-1915/Farm		
2 tanks for vegetable watering	1891-1915/Farm		
Sheep yards	1891-1915/Farm	AS4a	36, 39, 53
Horse stalls	1891-1915/Farm	AS4b	52
Brick foundations and trenching: school/post office	1891-1915/Farm	AS5	
Fence line with gate	1891-1915/Farm	AS6	39
Dairy	1891-1915/Farm	AS7	41, 57
Piggery	1891-1915/Farm	AS7	
Feed silo	1891-1915/Farm	AS7	
Double silo	1933		55, 56
Government agricultural farm orchard	1912/Farm	AS1	
Fenced enclosure containing building remnants	1890-1915/Farm	AS2	
Exotic plantings and brick foundations	1891-1915/Farm	AS3	
Pinus trees and artefact scatter	1891-1915/Farm	AS3	
Sheep dip	1891-1915/Farm	-	36
Bridge over Longneck Creek	1891-1915/Farm	AS8	48
Concrete water tank	1949/migrant	W1	31
Boiler House (demolished)	1950s/ migrant	8	66
Laundry block x 4 (demolished)	1950s/ migrant	10,11, 12,13	
Community hall (demolished)	1956 / migrant	14	
Kindergarten, crèche and school (demolished)	1950/ migrant	15	
Migrant Hostel Unit (demolished)	Pre-1950/ migrant	16, 17	
Ablution and toilet block Hostel Unit 1 (demolished)	Pre-1950/ migrant	18, 19	
Migrant hostel unit 1 dormitories (demolished)	Pre-1950/ migrant	20,21,22,23	
Migrant hostel Unit No 2 Dorms (demolished)	Pre-1950/migrant	43-48, 49-50	
Canteen (demolished)	1941	53	
Migrant hospital (demolished)	1950/migrant	56& 57	
HQ Migrant holding centre (demolished)	1950/migrant	58	59
Commonwealth Works Dept Depot (demolished)	1967/OTU	34 & 66	
OTU BBQ and garden area	Post 1967/OTU		86-91
Quarry			102-104
Brick incinerator (demolished)	Post 1967/OTU	S10	
O.T.U. obstacle course	Post 1967/OTU	F1	92-100
O.T.U. challenge course	Post 1967/OTU	-	101

2.8 Built items associated with each development period

This section describes the construction history associated with each of the main building periods at the site.

Pitt Town Village Settlement 1893 to 1896

This first European development involved the construction of some 100 residences housing 500 people, initially in tents but later recorded as residing in timber huts with bark roofs. Buildings to service this development included stables, a sawmill, a dairy, blacksmith and wheelwright shop, a church a hall, a public school and a superintendents cottage.

Nothing remains standing from this period. Recent fires have however uncovered archaeological evidence possibly related to the schoolhouse as well as other as yet unidentified structures. Given the very recent nature of these fires no detailed analysis of the material uncovered by them has yet been undertaken. One of the recommendations of this report is that a detailed archaeological mapping of the village settlement and farm area be undertaken.

The Casual Labour Farm, 1896 to 1910 and Farm Training for Australian Boys, 1905 to 1910

In contrast to the preceding period, during this period of development, there were fewer people in residence (70 – 80 men). Development during this period included the construction of additional dormitories and a managers residence. Only the managers residence (H2) located along the entrance roadway remains from this phase.

There is unlikely to be any significant archaeological remains specifically related to this period as use of the site largely continued from the previous phase with little new development. The old huts were adapted for the new occupants, the schoolhouse converted into a manager's residence and fencing repaired.⁷

The Dreadnought Scheme and the Government Agricultural Training Farm 1911-1939

During the Dreadnought Scheme from 1911 to 1915, over 1200 youths were trained on the farm. Between 1916 and 1917 Australian women were trained at Scheyville and one of the dormitories for the boys was reserved for the women's use but otherwise returned servicemen were based at Scheyville for farm training.

The second phase of the Dreadnought scheme resumed in 1919 and continued until 1929. Today none of the extensive complex of farm buildings is intact, the silos and associated ruins being the only remnants. By 1912 however there were already a substantial number of buildings on the farm including a shearing shed, dairy, barns, piggery, a butcher's shop, killing yards, shed for farm vehicles, silos, cow yards, workshops, dining, kitchen and sleeping quarters, laundry, dam and roads and fencing. In 1929 further substantial building development occurred on the site, with a brick administration block, two dormitories and a dining room and kitchen built to create a quadrangle complex.

New farm structures including a piggery, dairy and double silos, were also constructed in this period. The entrance road was realigned and it is probable that the second residence close to the entrance today and occupied by NPWS staff today was constructed during this period of renewed development.

The only remaining buildings from this period are the brick quadrangle complex, (No's 1-3) the substation (No 50), a store (No 6), the residence (H1) and the double silo. Some road alignments and bridges possibly also from this period survive. These have been more clearly defined by the recent fires that have exposed old road alignments.

There is also some evidence in the form of ruins, of the dairy, sheep dip, piggery and horse stalls as well as miscellaneous items such as remnants of fencing, a beehive capped cistern and remnants of

⁷ Edds et al 1991: 10f.

water tanks. Figure 17 shows the layout of the farm area today. Figures 36-60 show some of the feature of the farm area as identified in the tables above.



Figure 36 Sheep dip ruins



Figure 37 Twin silos and site of new dairy



Figure 38 Farm managers house



Figure 39 Sheep dip gates



Figure 40 Underground water tank



Figure 41 Old Dairy Site with white cedar



Figure 42 Fence posts



Figure 43 Site of Old Silo and Dairy



Figure 44 Cistern



Figure 45 The avenue marked by fence posts



Figure 46 Tank and trough



Figure 47 Ruins of Farm structure



Figure 48 The log bridge



Figure 49 Tank



Figure 50 Fence posts



Figure 51 Old radiata pine – supervisors cottage



Figure 52 Posts of horse stalls remain upright in the ruins of the stables , 2005.



Figure 53 Sheep / cattle ramp at left , 2005.



Figure 54 Well and building ruins



Figure 55 View of timber yard with workers at Scheyville Training Farm c1926
State Records NSW



Figure 56 Milking sheds at Scheyville Training Farm, 1926
State Records NSW



Figure 57 Same view as above in 2005



Figure 58 Same view as above in 2005



Figure 59 Manager's cottage and Post Office at Scheyville Training Farm, 1926
State Records NSW



Figure 60 Same view as to left in 2005

Military Use during World War 11, 1940 to 1944

This period ended the agricultural training era and it appears that from this time the agricultural buildings were no longer maintained and all have become part of the rich farming archaeology within the site. The 1941 plan of the site provided evidence of some of the existing buildings and new buildings constructed for the military use. Of these buildings only the new Store (No 5) remains from this period.

Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre, 1949 to 1969

Over 40 new buildings were constructed on the site during this period to accommodate the new influx of migrant families. (Figure 62) Most of these buildings were constructed on concrete floor slabs with timber frames clad externally with corrugated iron and internally with masonite. The extent of these buildings is shown in Figure 16.

Today only the two large SSAR huts (No's 7 and 9), three small SSAR Huts (No's 56, 6 and 5)) and part of the former hospital (No 57) remain. (Refer to Appendix 3 for a detailed description of the history and fabric of the Huts).

A large number of concrete slabs are all that remain of the buildings demolished in the 1980s and 1990s by the NPWS. (Figures 107-108) It is possible that there are some significant archaeological deposits associated with these around former entry points to the buildings, but their main significance lies in their ability to demonstrate the former layout of the holding centre.

The SSAR huts: Migrant Holding Centre and Officer Training Unit phases

The SSAR Huts and their settings were in communal use during the two key historic phases of use:

- Communal dining and recreation facilities for thousands of post-WW2 migrants who lived temporarily in the Scheyville Holding Centre, and
- Mess and gym facilities for the Army Officer Cadets, under the National Service programme, who underwent the difficult training at the Officer Training Unit.

The size and volume of the structures as well as their central location within the camp demonstrates the importance of the Huts in housing these functions (refer to Appendix 3 for a detailed history and

description of the huts). All of the prefabricated huts at Scheyville are of the same design. They were manufactured by the Stran-Steel Division of the Great Lakes Corporation which had taken over the design and manufacture of prefabricated huts from the US Naval base at Quonset in 1943. The Stran-Steel Division made huts mark the last major redesign of these structures. The standard hut had an expanded footprint of 20' x 48' (from the original Quonset of 16'x36') but weighed less and took up less shipping space because the only pre-curved sections of cladding were only used at the ridgeline. The remainder of the hut was clad horizontally enabling panels to be shipped flat. The other significant improvement was the development of the rib design which was formed from two slightly mis-formed 'U' shaped pieces back to back between which fixing nails could be driven easily.

The two large huts at Scheyville are the 'Utility Building' version of this design known as the 'Elephant Hut'. A single hut weighed 23,381 pounds and was shipped in 23 crates taking up 383.17 cubic feet of space. Each took 300 man hours to erect. 11,800 of these huts were fabricated by the end of WWII and were used in all climatic conditions with minor modifications⁸.

Although commonly referred to in Australia as 'SAAR' huts it is more likely that their acronym is 'SSAR' standing for 'Stran-Steel Arch Rib' Huts.⁹

The figures below show the changing uses of the huts and the spaces around them during the migrant and officer training unit phases.



Figure 61 Western SSAR Hut interior, February 2005



Figure 62 Western SSAR Hut interior, February 2005

⁸ Decker et al 2005: 23-34

⁹ Robertson Hindmarsh 2006 vol 1: 1-176



Figure 63 Migrants' Dining Room, West Hut, 1950s (Source – NPWS)



Figure 64 Cadets Mess Anteroom, 1972 (Source – A Sonneveld)



Figure 65 Officer Cadets' gymnasium, 1972, looking north, showing a basketball court and the hated ropes. (Source – A Sonneveld)



Figure 66 Kitchen wings of SSAR huts with old boilers at centre, 2005



Figure 67 Barbecue Pit between mess huts, 2005



Figure 68 Children's playground between the SSAR huts c1950s during the Migrant phase.



Figure 69 Same view as above c1950s during the Migrant phase



Figure 70 Migrants laundry drying area to the south of the huts, showing overhead reticulation to the laundry buildings on the left, 1950s.

Sewage Treatment Plant and Associated Features

The Sewage treatment works was installed c1949 to service the Migrant holding centre although it is possible that some of the features pre-date this period. The works consist of a series of concrete settling tanks, spillways and associated infrastructure. (Figures 71-78). A number of garden plantings also survive today. (Figure 74)



Figure 71 Remains of reinforced spillway.



Figure 72 Settling Tanks



Figure 73 One of a series of settling trenches.



Figure 74 Kiosk with exotic plantings such as flowering Plum, Wisteria and Oleander hedging.



Figure 75 Brick inspection pit, vitreous clay pipes visible.



Figure 76 Ventilation pipes



Figure 77 Incinerator



Figure 78 Sewage treatment infrastructure

Migrant period plantings

In addition to the plantings around the sewerage treatment plan, a number of other significant tree plantings occurred around the huts in the migrant period.

The surviving plantings are primarily formal plantings lining roadways and paths (see figures 91-94 below). Other incidental plantings also survive including a peach tree behind the administration block and several oleanders in and around the surviving huts.



Figure 79 Roadway & slabs near parade ground with distinctive Cypress trees around Huts, 2005. This area is becoming infested with Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) which has seeded from ornamental plantings.



Figure 80 Small hut Huts and Cypress Rows, 2005



Figure 81 Hut slab and Cypress plantings west of the Quadrangle, 2005.



Figure 82 Main entry flanked by Golden Cypress



Figure 83 Row of Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) lining pathway south of the huts.



Figure 84 Casurinas lining the main camp road

Officer Training Unit, 1965 to 1973

During this period the buildings constructed for the Migrant Holding Centre were adapted to Military use. However further development did occur with the construction of the parade ground, a Transport Compound (building C and D) as well as the squash (No 69) and tennis courts and a new water tower (W2).

All of these more recent additional building and facilities remain today. The transport complex is used by the NPWS Cumberland North field staff. However the squash centre is un-used and beginning to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance and vandalism. Birds are nesting in the court and gallery.

Parade ground, 2005

The Parade Ground, (Figure 95) from the OTU period, is located in the south-western corner of the camp. It is a large rectangular area paved in bitumen. A set of steps leads from the Parade Ground up a small embankment to a cement platform where official guests officiated at Graduation Parades and other special occasions. A cannon and a flagpole were situated near the bottom of the steps. In the background the 1967 water tower can be seen.



Figure 85: Parade Ground and water tower

Barbecue pit and garden area

Between the SSAR huts during the Officer Training Unit phase of occupation a concrete and brick bbq pit was constructed for communal bbq functions. This pit is still clearly visible today. (Figures 86-87)

To the east of the pit, the OTUs constructed a concrete fountain and pond which is also still in relatively good condition and includes some remains of bench seating. The pond feature was part of a domestic scale garden laid out in this area some of the pathways from which still survive. (Figures 88-90)



Figure 86 Cadets BBQ Pit, 2005



Figure 87 Cadets BBQ Pit, 2006



Figure 88 Fountain and pond in Cadets' mess garden c1970s during OTU phase (NPWS)



Figure 89 Fountain and pond today



Figure 90 Officer Cadets' Mess Garden, looking SW past the west hut c1970s
(Source – A Sonneveld)



Figure 91 Same view as above, 2005

OTU Obstacle Course Area

The *Scheyville National Park Historical Research and Oral History Report*, 2004 by Hamilton & Andersen, provides detailed information on the social history of the site between 1965 and 1973 when it was known as OTU Scheyville. The use of the Scheyville Farm as an Officer Training Unit during the period of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War is one of the more recent chapters in the rich layered history of Scheyville.

During 2005 the remains of the obstacle course were made accessible following fire and clearing of blackberries and undergrowth. The timber posts of the traverse remain in place and several other of the timber features survive in poor condition. The obstacle course is able to demonstrate the intense nature of the physical and military training programme that produced 1880 officers from the ranks of conscripted recruits.

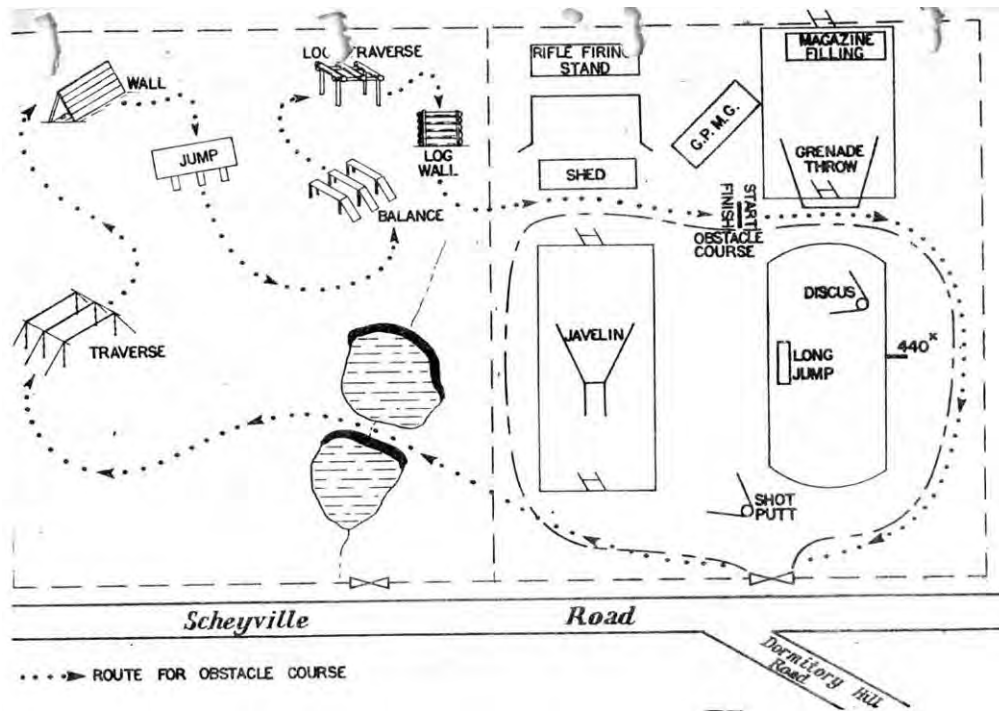


Figure 92 Diagram of OTU obstacle course from Hamilton and Andersen 2004: Appendix 1.

One of the OTU officers, Steve Merralls photographed the course and cadets in action at the end of his time at Scheyville. Some of his photos collected as part of the Oral History programme are reproduced in Figures 97-100 below.

I had a small camera, small enough to wrap in a plastic bag and hold in my mouth. We weren't allowed to take cameras on the training course so I used to load up the camera in the dark in my room and then take photographs the next day while I was doing the obstacle course. Once I took thirty photographs, stopping after each obstacle to wind the film on. Twelve photographs turned out well. It's the only documentation of the cadets on the obstacle course.¹⁰

Figure 93 Cadets on the “balance”
(Photo by Steve Merralls)



Figures 94 and 95 Cadets emerging from a pipe crawl-through and about to scale the “log wall” as part of the OTU obstacle course. (Photo by Steve Merralls)

¹⁰ Merralls in Andersen et al 2002.

Figure 96 OTU cadets on the "Traverse" during the 1960s.
(Photo by Steve Merralls)



Figure 97 The remains of the "Traverse" in December 2005.
These were made accessible following fire and clearing of
blackberries.



Figure 98 Turnbuckle and eyebolt fixed to a concrete pad provided tensioning
to the cables. December 2005



Figure 99 Fragile timber posts and other remnants of an
obstacle course structure survive in poor condition.



Figure 100 Remains of 'The Jump', 2005



OTU Challenge Course

The OTU Challenge Course is located to the south of the Scheyville camp near the water tower. In 2006 the course was rediscovered during clearing operations. Some former OTU graduates have provided some oral history on this archaeological feature. Groups of cadets were given a series of challenges to test their problem solving and leadership skills. This involved crawling through pipes and crossing imaginary obstacles that may be encountered on the battlefield. Cadets had to figure out improvised ways of getting the men under their command through the course. Senior officers assessed their performance from an elevated platform.

The challenge course now consists of a series of upright timber posts, and platforms and formed pits that may have been used to simulate water courses.



Figure 101 The OTU Challenge Course, 2006.

Sandstone Quarry

The quarrying of building-stone was being carried out on a commercial scale by the mid-nineteenth century utilising the outcrops near Longneck Lagoon. St James' Anglican church in Pitt Town was built in this stone in 1857 and the later Victorian stone homes in Pitt Town are said also to be made of blocks quarried on the Common.¹¹ The stone from it was later used for the construction of the new Cattai Creek bridge and parts of Cattai Road in the 1920s. Photographs survive of stone extraction from its principal face along with the nearby stone-crusher in 1927.¹² It remains a significant feature of Scheyville National Park. (Figures 106-108)



Figure 102 View of main quarry face near Longneck Lagoon, 2005



Figure 103 Detail of quarry face showing tool marks



Figure 104 Detail of quarry face showing 'honeycomb weathering'. Local legend has it that these holes were made by WW1 Light Horseman using the quarry as a target range.

¹¹ Rex and Linda Stubbs, ed., for Hawkesbury-Hills Airport Protest Committee, "Sydney's Second International Airport": Heritage Report, Pitt Town 1984, 15.

¹² Government Printer's Office videodisk 1, 02734, 13619, Mitchell Library; information from Ted Eggleton to Jan Barkley, 1998.

New South Wales Police Tactical Response Group, 1985 to 1987

During this period many of the former buildings were damaged as part of the tactical response training activities. The site also contained, as a result of this and earlier military use, many unexploded ordnance which rendered the site unsafe for the public. The Military took responsibility for the detonating and clearing of the ordnance in 1996.

No additional buildings were constructed during this period and the full extent of destruction and demolition that occurred has not been fully recorded although it was alluded to in the Edds CMP of 1991. Many of the huts were used for TRG training exercises and were extensively damaged in the process.

Scheyville National Park, 1996 to present

NPWS demolished many of the damaged buildings in 1996. (Figures 105-108). These included those buildings listed as having been demolished in section 3.7 above. This has created an archaeological resource consisting mainly of concrete building pads probably associated with some disturbed deposits around the buildings. This period wrought the most significant changes to the physical layout of the place in the shortest period of time.

An additional maintenance structure has been constructed by the PWD in the former transport compound. Today, only 19 buildings remain out of more than 100 once constructed on site.

Since 2002 the conservation programme for the site has included the following:

1. Preparation of this cmp
2. A targeted oral history programme covering the migrant era, the Officer Training Unit era and currently the WWII era.
3. Conservation works on the huts and quadrangle building.
4. Support for the important migrant and Officer Training Unit reunion days. Collection of information and development of interpretation for the migrant period.
5. Working with the Migrant Heritage Centre to produce a site brochure.
6. Working with local stakeholders including the Powerhouse Museum (who have a store at Castle Hill) and the Historic Houses Trust (at Rouse Hill) to develop a North West Sydney cultural heritage partnership aimed at joint presentation and interpretation of sites.
7. Discussions with a promoter regarding the potential to run a music festival at the site.



Figure 105 Post 1967/OTU The camp area looking north, during the OTU phase, 1972.



Figure 106 View from water tower c1996 just prior to demolition of buildings (NPWS)



Figure 107 Scheyville Holding Centre, 1997, after demolition of many huts, with the SSAR huts central to the layout and the building pads related to the demolished buildings clearly visible. (Source – NPWS)



Figure 108 Scheyville Camp 1999

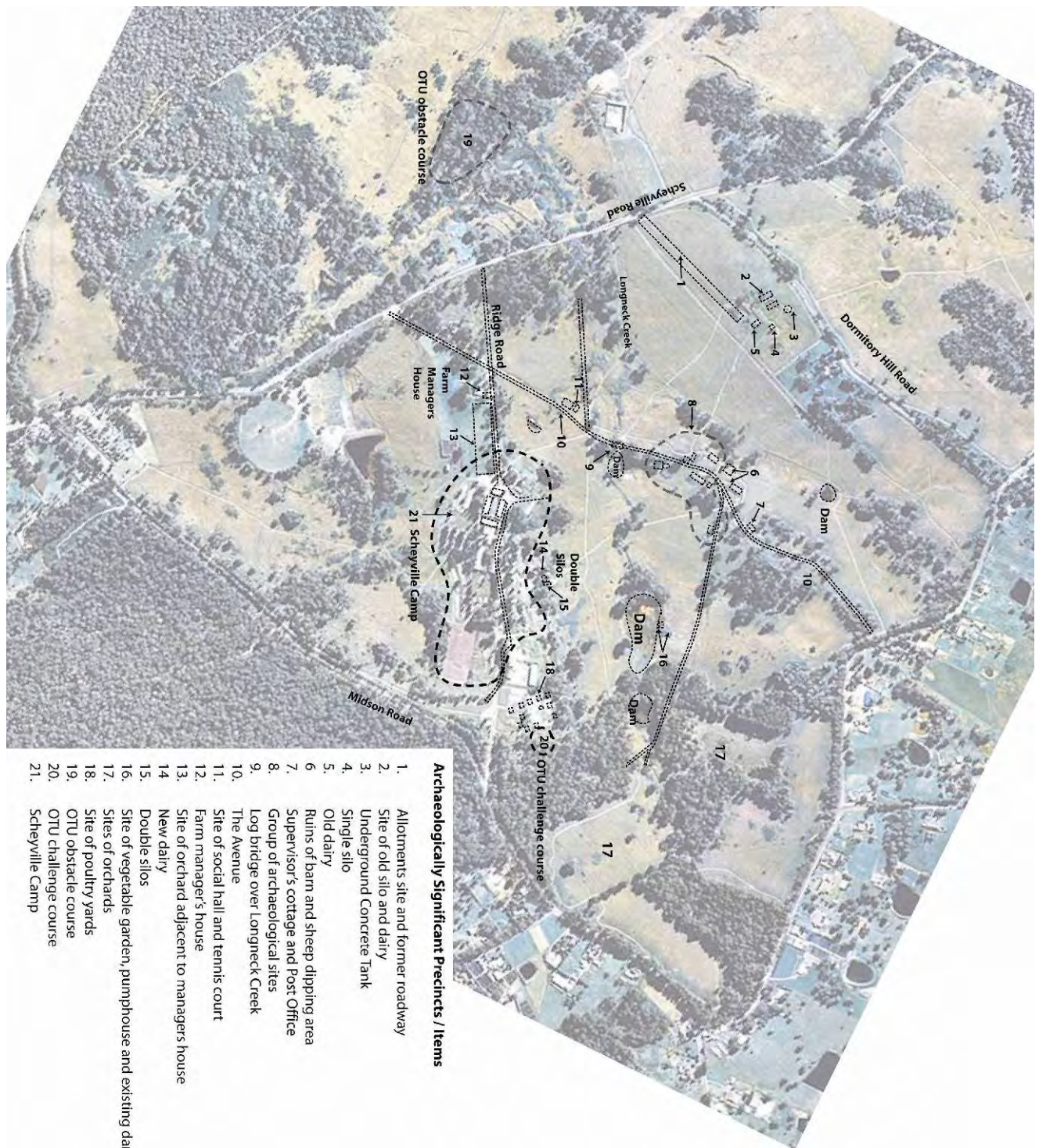


Figure 109: Archaeologically significant precincts and items

2.9 Scheyville National Park Historic Heritage Management Precincts

The previous section examined each of the phases of occupation within the park and the physical remains of these phases. There is however considerable continuity in building and site use between the various historic phases of occupation on the site. The use of particular buildings and structures has rarely been restricted to one phase of occupation. The significance of Scheyville lies in this inter-relatedness and overlapping of historic periods of use and it is important to recognise this when developing an understanding both of the physical evolution of the site and its future management requirements.

As a result of the historic phases of occupation there are areas of concentrated historic use that lend themselves to the division of the site into precincts. The precincts may each have their own management considerations and issues and these are considered further in the policy sections below. The precincts represent areas of concentrated physical remains. Not all of the individual sites fall within the precincts.

1 The building precinct The Building Precinct runs along the Scheyville ridge from the Old Pitt Town Road entrance (the back gate) and includes the area up to Scheyville Road. The Building Precinct contains the majority of the extant buildings on the site as well as the majority of remnant building pads. It includes the SSAR Huts, the Quadrangle buildings, the large water tower, the remnants of the camp boiler and historic plantings including avenue plantings of casuarina along the road ways and building edges, both irregular and regular plantings of oleander throughout the precinct and an avenue of pines next to the small huts. Detailed conservation plans have been prepared for this precinct by Sydney University students and extracts are included in the Appendices 3.

The Building precinct was used in all periods of the site's occupation reflecting its important position along the ridge line affording it commanding views over the farm and gardens. As a result it contains some of the most important views in the park including views to and from the Farm Precinct, views along and up the main entrance road to the administration building and short range views from the SSAR huts across the building pads which represent all of the buildings that have been demolished in this precinct.

2 The farm precinct. The farm precinct includes the Collective Farm, Dormitory Hill area and the working farm. The Collective Farm is the earliest part of the farm site and includes the archaeological remains of the school house, dwellings and roads. It also until recently contained two historic plantings, a coral tree which has now died and a senescent pine tree.

Between 1910 and 1930 Dormitory Hill was used as an Agricultural Training Farm and by the Dreadnoughts for accommodation. This area is closely associated with the working farm area and these two areas together provide the context for life and work at the site between the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries.

The working farm represents the period from the 1890s to the 1940s/50s. The working farm encompasses the main part of the farm operations including the archaeological remains of the stables, shearing shed, blacksmiths shed, dining hall, abattoir and kitchen. This area is dissected by a number of roads constructed from the 1890s onwards. There are significant views to and from the working farm to the main camp.

Associated with, but distant from, the farm precinct are the areas of the site that contained the market gardens, orchard and a saw mill site. The market gardens are represented by a large cleared space to the west of the Farm Precinct. The remains of a watering system including reticulation, irrigation channels and drainage, pumps and valves still survive in this location. The gardens probably date from the Dreadnought period from about 1911 onwards. Of similar date are the orchards. The remains in this area include agricultural furrows from the tree planting, remains of fencing, a pine tree wind break and the remains of a packing shed. Between the market gardens and the orchard is the possible site of the

sawmill building and road which is probably also associated with the Dreadnought period of occupation of the site.

3 The sewerage treatment plant precinct This precinct consists of an existing fenced plant and a series of radial absorption trenches, settling ponds, incinerator and associated infrastructure. The plant was built in the migrant period of occupation.

4 The quarry precinct. There are five small quarry sites and one larger site. The quarry was first associated with the Pitt Town Common and late used as a practice rifle range in WWI.

5 Challenge course precinct The remains of the challenge course are located near to the elevated water tank off the Midson Road entrance to the park. This site is better preserved than the obstacle course off Scheyville Road. The remains consist of a number of timber elements as well as areas of cut and fill that were used to represent various landforms (eg water bodies) as part of the physical challenges.

3 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Scheyville National Park has had a diverse range of uses over a long historical period. This comparative analysis provides comparisons for several of the most important historic phases that have left the most obvious physical remains.

Pitt Town Common

On 11 August 1804 King issued a government order creating six commons, including three on the Hawkesbury, in Nelson district, Richmond Hill district and Phillip district. The Nelson Common occupied the area between Old Stock Route Road, Windsor Road and Boundary road in the west, south and east, with the Hawkesbury River and Cattai Creek forming the northern boundary. The southern half of the common appears to have been alienated fairly early, but the northern half retained a strong association with the new settlement at Pitt Town, and remains in public ownership as the present Scheyville National Park and as the Mitchell Park section within Cattai National Park.

The Pitt Town Common preserved within Scheyville National Park became separated into two different areas according to usage, with the lower section around Long Neck Lagoon becoming known as “the Wet Common” and the upper sections of the Long Neck catchment around Scheyville Road being known as “the Dry Common”. The major activities and structures related to the use as a Common were associated with grazing (fences) and with extractive industry (quarrying). There are a number of small quarries in the Wet Common which are indicative of the efforts that early settlers made to obtain good sandstone for building, and the many coppiced stumps and the forest structure itself bear witness to the huge effort that went into timber-cutting and clearing. Over time the use as a Common gradually declined. The Dry Common became the site for a succession of uses starting with the Government Collective Farm in the 1890’s, while the Wet Common continued to have some common use until well into the 20th century. By contrast the St Albans Common, regularised by Governor Fitzroy in 1853, is still remaining in use today and thus provides a significant continuity of use no longer evident at Scheyville.

The trustees at St Albans, in the twenty-first as in the nineteenth century, carefully apportion the number of stock which each local landholder entitled to rights of common may graze there and there are periodic meetings of the Commoners to discuss matters of common concern. It is likely that Pitt Town Common was a similar focus of community interest and decision-making throughout the nineteenth century, and into the first half of the twentieth century.

Training and Employment Schemes

Employment schemes such as the Co-operative Farm and Casual Labour Farms at Scheyville were typical of depression work programmes established to alleviate the problems of chronic unemployment and drought. Village settlements such as the Co-operative Farm were set up all over Australia with two others established in New South Wales at Bega and Wilberforce in the 1890s. The Co-operative Farm at Scheyville appears to have been the largest of these. The Farm itself was promoted as an example of a socialist labour centre, predating the Russian revolution by 15 years. The failure of the Scheyville Farm as a “collective” enterprise was also unlike the other Farms that operated more successfully generally on more suitable land.¹³

Over time training became the key feature of the farm at Scheyville and in 1910 it was renamed the Government Agricultural Training Farm. With its emphasis on youth and on training, the Pitt Town establishment was an obvious place in 1911 to create a ‘Dreadnought’ farm under the British immigration scheme.

The Dreadnought scheme commenced at Scheyville in 1911 and saw the establishment of a 2500 acre farm at Scheyville. Most of the Dreadnought boys who arrived in Australia went straight to Scheyville but a select few were given a twelve-month course at one of the state agricultural colleges at Glen Innes,

¹³ Marler 2002:31.

Wollongbar, Grafton or Cowra¹⁴ or at Agricultural Experiment Farms established in NSW including at Bathurst, Uralla, Wagga Wagga, Yanco, Ballina, Berry, and Bega¹⁵. Scheyville appears to have been the most important of these Farms and it exceeded the achievements of the other establishments, training over half of the British boys brought to Australia under the Dreadnought scheme.¹⁶

By 1939, 5,595 Dreadnought boys had come to New South Wales.¹⁷ The removal of teenagers and children from Britain to parts of the Empire had a long history, enabling the colonies to boost their populations without creating competition for adult employment.¹⁸ Child migration was seen as a means of assisting impoverished or neglected children and the Dreadnought Trust, along with the Big Brother Movement, was one of the main migration organisations.

Few of the buildings used at the other New South Wales farm centres are extant although the grand Officers Quarters at the Bathurst Experiment Farm survives today as part of the Charles Sturt university.¹⁹ The Scheyville Quadrangle, purpose built for the Dreadnought scheme, appears to be the only purpose-built Dreadnought facility in NSW²⁰ and as such is of high significance. Its design by the NSW Department of Public works in 1928 distinguishes it from the other, usually prefabricated, structures that were generally used at the other farms.

After the cessation of the Dreadnought scheme in the 1930s and the end of World War II in 1945, Prime Minister John Curtin sought to develop an expanded immigration scheme but found British resistance to a large scale child migration scheme based on “war orphans”. This led to the development of a number of adult migration schemes including an agreement to provide free passage to Australia for ex-British Servicemen and their dependents.²¹

The large scale migration of adult Europeans was a far-reaching change in Australian history more significant [as] a repudiation of the British Empire than Federation and other changes to Australia's political relationship with Britain. Trade unions and ex-servicemen's organisations were initially resistant, but the widening of immigrant origins-eventually to include 'non-white' migrants- is today considered a major success by most Australians.²²

The Migrant Period

Commonwealth Government Migrant Centres were established after World War II to accommodate displaced persons and assisted migrants, mostly from Eastern and Western Europe. Large numbers of those at Scheyville came from the Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Estonia.²³ The total number of migrants to Australia numbered in the hundreds of thousands and the provision of suitable accommodation was a keen concern of the Commonwealth Government, especially given the housing shortage in the immediate post-war period²⁴.

The largest hostels were at Bonegilla (north-east Victoria) and Bathurst (NSW). Other hostels in New South Wales included Adamstown, Balgownie, Bankstown, Berkeley, Bradfield Park, Bunnerong, Burwood, Cabramatta, Cronulla, Dundas, East Hills, Ermington, Goulburn, Greta, Katoomba, Kingsgrove, Kyeemagh, Leeton, Lithgow, Mascot, Matraville, Mayfield, Meadowbank, Nelson Bay, North Head, Orange, Parkes,

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Irvine et al 2002: 54.

¹⁶ Marler et al 2002: 31f.

¹⁷ http://www.naa.gov/publications/research_guides.

¹⁸ Migration Heritage Centre New South Wales: nd.

¹⁹ Ibid: 54.

²⁰ Irvine et al 2002: 56.

²¹ Migration Heritage Centre New South Wales: nd.

²² Ibis.

²³ Migration Heritage Centre New South Wales: nd.

²⁴ Stuart 2005: 53.

Port Stephens, Randwick, St Marys, Scheyville, Schofields, Unanderra, Villawood, Wallerawang and Wallgrove.²⁵

As seen from the list above, there were a large number of migration camps in New South Wales alone and such camps were established in nearly all states of Australia from the mid-twentieth century. The centres were generally established “in former army barracks, or iron and fibro army huts moved to new locations”²⁶ and the land commonly reverted to military use once the centres closed.²⁷ Camps established at military installations apart from Scheyville include Bathurst, Bonegilla, Villawood and East Hills among others.

Migrant accommodation was usually either in the form of “reception and training centres” which provided short term accommodation, or “holding centres” for the families of breadwinners, usually women and children, to live whilst more permanent accommodation was sought.²⁸ Scheyville provided the latter type of accommodation. The extended period of time that many families spent in migrant centres means that the remains of these places hold special meaning to the former residents. At Bonegilla in northern Victoria this significance has been recognised by nomination to the National Heritage List and the allocation of a large amount of State and Commonwealth government funding to conservation works. Bonegilla provides a good comparison with Scheyville due to the good level of preservation, the amount of historical research available and the use of the site as a holding centre. The following information is taken from the Place Details report submitted as part of the nomination to the National Heritage List. This information is located at www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb.

Construction began on what was originally the Bonegilla army camp in June 1940 following Australia's entry into World War II in 1939. Bonegilla originally had 24 blocks of buildings with only Block 19 still remaining. Typically the blocks consisted of rows of huts centred upon a kitchen and messes with ablution and laundry buildings.

Block 19 consists of a number of P1 type huts, pathways and associated landscape features. In contrast to the surviving cylindrical huts at Scheyville, the huts were mostly unlined, timber framed huts with corrugated iron cladding and low-pitched, gabled roofs clad with corrugated iron or asbestos cement.

A recent account of prefabricated semi-cylindrical huts in Australia²⁹ indicates that both Nissen and SSAR type huts (the latter sometimes called Quonset, Elephant or warehouse huts) were commonly constructed and have survived reasonably well. Stran Steel were contracted by the US navy to fabricate the huts and were unable to meet demand.³⁰ These hut types were primarily used after 1939 and were in production until 1959. Prefabricated huts were extensively used for accommodation for the military from WW1 onwards and later as temporary accommodation for migrants. There were a variety of designs available, some of which were manufactured in Australia. Military camps at Ingleburn and Greta, for example, had wooden huts erected whilst other military encampments used huts fabricated to different designs.³¹

The SSAR huts used at Scheyville were possibly originally used as operational military buildings at Manus Island in the WWII Pacific Theatre, before being dismantled and imported to Australia for later use. This re-use of military prefabricated buildings was relatively common, for example, the migrant centre at East Hills used SSAR huts and Quonset huts for the administration buildings and Nissen huts for migrant accommodation.³² SSAR huts were also used at the Mayfield Migrant Centre, on the East

²⁵ <http://www.naa.gov.au/fsheets/fs170.html>.

²⁶ Petersen 2006

²⁷ Stuart 2005: 53 and pers com Jan 2007.

²⁸ Petersen 2006

²⁹ Stuart 2005: p51ff.

³⁰ Robertson Hindmarsh 2006 vol 1: 1-176

³¹ Stuart 2005: 52-53.

³² Stuart 2005: 53.

Campus of Wollongong University³³ and at the Kingston Depot in Canberra.³⁴ As at Scheyville, the SSAR huts were used for food preparation and dining and recreational purposes.³⁵ However, it is not known how many of these similar buildings were retrieved from active wartime service, as opposed to previous deployment at military establishments within Australia.

Today most of the migrant camp huts have been demolished or are under threat. Single SSAR huts survive at both Villawood and Wollongong although the latter is only half the size of the Scheyville examples, and there have been proposals to remove it.³⁶ It is likely that the size and number of SSAR huts surviving at Scheyville is rare, most other examples having been removed.

Military Training

Military Training at Scheyville occurred in three periods. The first period, in the early twentieth century, is represented by bullet craters in the wall of the large quarry near Long Neck Lagoon. These are reputed to have resulted from the use of the quarry as a practice firing range before they were deployed overseas in World War 1.

The second period of military training at Scheyville was during World War II, when the Dreadnought buildings and the surrounding lands were used as a satellite establishment to the air base at Richmond. During this period, the Dreadnought buildings themselves were used as headquarters for the various searchlight units that formed and trained at Scheyville. The Farm Manager's House, below the Dreadnought buildings, was used as Battalion Headquarters for the 1st Australian Parachute Battalion, during a year-long stay while they were trained and formed up to full strength

Undoubtedly the most significant of the military uses of Scheyville however was the third period of military training at Scheyville, namely the establishment of the Officer Training Unit for National Servicemen in the Vietnam war (1965-73). The fast-track training provided at Scheyville was in contrast to the traditionally longer officer training programmes at the other training facilities of Duntroon and Portsea. There are significant remains at Scheyville related to this training, including remnants of both the challenge (leadership) and confidence (obstacle) courses as well as the Parade Ground and Officer's Mess.³⁷ 2700 trainees went through Scheyville during this period and the site remains a rare publicly accessible reminder of both military training and discipline.³⁸

The setting up of the Officer Training Unit involved significant reconstruction of the facilities, infrastructure and grounds, which was commenced by the Commonwealth in 1964. Construction included fit out of three separate kitchens and bars (for the three "ranks" of residents), laying out of five separate sporting fields, and the construction of a rifle range, tennis and squash courts. Water, sewer and power were also reviewed and upgraded where necessary. Thus the historic evidence associated with this period occurs as a layer of change on the existing structures (e.g. rebuilt kitchen in the western SSAR Hut), as specific purpose-built structures (e.g. the firing range), and as relics scattered across the landscape (e.g. used cartridges).

The Trainees were taken for Officer Training from all over Australia and the OTU phase at Scheyville therefore has a national context and relevance to it. The Officer Training course itself was the only time the Australian Army has attempted to make fully-functioning combat officers out of raw recruits in a six-month period. For the period that it was operating, OTU produced the majority of new officers entering the Australian Army, with output exceeding both Duntroon and Portsea combined. The course itself was a life-changing experience for those who made it through (and for many who were instructors or who failed to graduate), and the influx of "non-army" officers also changed the Army itself. There are

³³ Booker et al 2002: 38.

³⁴ Robertson Hindmarsh 2006 vol 1: 1-176.

³⁵ Ibid: 39.

³⁶ Booker et al 2002: 41.

³⁷ Pers com Iain Stuart who comments that the Officer Training Unit remains at Scheyville are likely to be rare in the context of officer training at that time.

³⁸ Irvine et al 2002: 57.

still cogent and significant links between the trainees and the site today that are demonstrated through regular reunion and “back to Scheyville” days.

The Vietnam period requires more research to enable more detailed comparisons with other facilities to be made. However, its direct analogues are Officer training establishments at Portsea (now closed), Georges Heights, and Duntroon.

It can be seen from the above discussion that during most phases of Scheyville’s use, there were similar establishments operating for similar reasons, with Scheyville sometimes being a pre-eminent example (Dreadnought Farm), and at other times a lesser example (WWII training camp). For at least two periods of use, Scheyville was unique in Australia (the Collective Farm, and the Officer Training Unit).

The uses at Scheyville have changed on average every decade sometimes through a re-alignment of existing use (Collective Farm to Government Training Farm), and sometimes through a complete change of use (Migrant Camp to Officer Training Unit). This is probably due to its availability (Crown ownership), its position (remote from Sydney, but near enough to allow easy communication and transport), and as time went on, its infrastructure, each layer of which was sufficiently complex to support continued use, but sufficiently generalized to be adaptable to form the basis of new infrastructure to support the new use. This pattern of changing use and readaptation of existing structures to serve new functions continues today at Scheyville under NPWS management.

4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Assessment of heritage significance endeavours to establish why a place is considered important and is valued by the community. There are numerous methodologies for the assessment of cultural significance, but the one used in this CMP is based on that developed by the NSW Heritage Office for the State Heritage Register. These methodologies involve the application of various criteria relating to historical associations, aesthetic values, community esteem and educational/research potential, together with measures of the level of significance.

Scheyville National Park satisfies a number of the seven criteria established under the *NSW Heritage Act* (as amended) for inclusion on the State Heritage Register of NSW.

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register an item must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;
- b) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;
- c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;
- d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;
- f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;
- g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's
 - cultural or natural places; or
 - cultural or natural environments.

The Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has established criteria for determining whether or not a place or item is significant at a national level and is thus eligible for listing on the National List. No assessment has been made against these criteria for this report. However it is likely that such an assessment would find that Scheyville is of national significance against criteria a and c and possibly others.

The National Heritage criteria against which the heritage values of a place are assessed are:

- a. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history
- b. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history
- c. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history

- d. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:
 - i. a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
 - ii. a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments;
- e. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group
- f. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period
- g. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- h. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history
- i. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

As well as assessing a place against criteria for its heritage value, national listing requires that a place reaches a 'significance threshold'. To reach the threshold for the National Heritage List, a place must have 'outstanding' heritage value to the nation. This means that it must be important to the Australian community as a whole. It should be noted that Bonegilla Migrant Camp has already been listed on the National List and it may be appropriate in future to pursue a national serial listing of migration sites which should include Scheyville although it is possible that both the Dreadnought and Officer Training Unit periods could also meet the national listing criteria.

Whilst it is likely that past residents of Scheyville are scattered throughout Australia, it is not possible to determine whether or not the place would meet the threshold for national listing at this point in time. Further research will need to be undertaken into the value of the place to the Australian community as a whole. Listing on the State Heritage Register is recommended as a first step in gaining wider recognition of the significance of the place.

4.1 Assessment against the NSW State Heritage Register criteria

Criterion (a) Historical

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of New South Wales' cultural or natural history.

The 1804 Common was one of the significant innovations of Governor King and aimed to supply common grazing for the settlers along the Hawkesbury flood-plain. This Common is still discernible in the National Park through the remnant Cumberland Plain vegetation and some of the Park's boundary lines, as well as the oldest quarry sites, around Long Neck Lagoon. The continuing presence of traces of the Common in the Park are of State significance.

Cooperative farms such as the Pitt Town Village Settlement were rare attempts to remedy social problems, just as the Casual Labour Farm from 1896 until 1910 was an important, though unsuccessful, answer to some of the miseries of unemployment and poverty. The training of potential agricultural workers was considered to be a project of National importance and was represented at Scheyville by the Cooperative labour Farm (1906) and later, the Government Agricultural Training Farm created in 1910. The following year the Dreadnought Scheme for young male immigrants from Britain was established. The accommodation needs at Scheyville and the extensive farm buildings and facilities created in 1911-2 and expanded in the 1930s are an important legacy from this training period.

Immigration again became central to Scheyville between 1949 and 1964, when the farm became a busy migrant hostel, holding up to 1200 people at any one time. The conversion of existing buildings and the erection of new facilities, have left a heritage which is outstandingly legible and significant at a State and possibly national level (DEWHA criterion a)

During World War I Scheyville was expanded to include educational facilities to women. For two years, in 1916 and 1917, the training in subjects such as dairying and poultry-raising offered to women had some limited success. Taken in conjunction with the efforts of the Women's Horticultural and Home Industries Society, the war-time attempts to provide suitable opportunities to women at Scheyville have State significance.

During the Vietnam War era, the migrant camp area was rebuilt and refurbished for the Officer Training Unit, which trained military conscripts to become officers through an intensive course. This unit provided the majority of the new officers for the Australian Army during this period, not only for service in Vietnam but also at bases around Australia, including some well-known public figures such as Jeff Kennett and Tim Fischer. The OTU phase of Scheyville has State significance and is potentially of national significance (DEWHA criteria a and g).

The migrant camp at Scheyville then served for a period as a residential campus of Hawkesbury Agricultural College (now the University of Western Sydney), which lasted from 1977 to 1983. Subsequently, there were several years of use by diverse organisations including Scouts (camping), Army and Army Reserve (training), and the Police Tactical Response Group and Special Weapons Organisation Squad (tactical exercises which resulted in a lot of damage to the buildings) as well as storage of disassembled aircraft by the Historic Aircraft Restoration Society. From the late 1980s, the area which is now the National Park was the subject of a number of major development proposals, including Sydney's second international airport, a major new suburb, and a maximum security prison. These phases of development are significant at a local level.

Criterion (b)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history

The Dreadnought phase in particular is of state and national significance as the largest Dreadnought scheme farm in Australia and as a typical example of British child migration schemes. It is also significant that it was funded by monies originally donated to counter the perceived threat to a newly-independent Australia from the new Japanese Navy (by purchasing "Dreadnought" naval ships), and

that a major aim of the scheme was to populate Australia with young men who could form a nucleus of a force to defend Australia from the possible Asian threat.

William F Schey played a critical role in developing Scheyville as a training farm for youths. In 1907, in recognition of this role, the Pitt town common was renamed Scheyville in his honour. The association with Schey, a Director of Labour in NSW, is significant at a state level.

Scheyville is strongly associated with post war migration to Australia and this association is significant at a state and possibly a national level. This period of migration remains one of the most significant in Australian history as it is associated with the first major post invasion influx of different nationalities, skills and life experiences that has been formative in the creation of the modern Australian nation. The migrant story of modern Australia can be told through the microcosm of Scheyville via both the physical and oral evidence associated with the site. Ex-residents of the site continue to return and have contributed to a range of interpretive materials in order to tell their stories.³⁹

The use of the Scheyville site as an Officer Training Unit between 1965 and 1973 is a particularly significant period in the site's history and the site has a strong association with Vietnam veterans. The Scheyville Historical Research and Oral History project, 2004, focusing on the this period has demonstrated that Scheyville National Park remains closely associated with the OTU Association and provides a rare insight into the military training and the culture that was put in place at the OTU.

The Officer Training Unit Association, comprising former cadets and graduates of the OTU, maintain a strong association with the place with many participating in recent oral history projects, and reunions of the different classes are regularly held on the site. This continuing association is of State Significance.

Criterion (c)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW

The Quadrangle Buildings from the Dreadnought phase are significant at a state level both for their rarity, being the only purpose-built Dreadnought structures still extant, and for their landmark location overlooking the entranceway and early farm landscapes. The quadrangle buildings are modest in scale and design but are largely unaltered. They are significant for their ability to demonstrate past institutional uses related to the Dreadnought and OTU phase and have had continuous administration uses since 1929.

The SSAR huts are considered to be rare at a state level, as others having been considerably altered or demolished and few survive as a collection. The design and construction of the huts represents the last major modification to this hut type. The distinctive features which differentiate a SSAR Hut from the more common Nissen Hut can be seen in the huts at Scheyville. The combination of SSAR Hut and attached kitchen is representative of similar use by the Commonwealth Immigration Department in several post-WWII migrant centres. Complete SSAR Huts have become increasingly rare in the last decade.

The boilers and unusual overhead reticulation system provided innovative steam cooking facilities for the kitchens as well as hot water for the Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre.

³⁹ <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/fieldsofmemories/photos/migrantcentre.shtml>.

Criterion (d)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in New South Wales for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The community groups and individuals that have particular attachment to the study area include:

- adjoining landowners/managers,
- local historical societies,
- local Aboriginal groups and individuals;
- past and present Service staff who have worked in Scheyville NP.
- Dreadnoughts and other agricultural trainees, and their families;
- WW 2 Defence personnel and their families;
- Migrants and migrant camp staff, and their families;
- Cadets and staff from OTU and their families;
- local families with a long-term association.

Special associations exist with army personnel and migrant groups and individuals that lived at Scheyville from 1930 to 1973. Some 50,000 persons may have resided in Scheyville accommodation during this period. The most recent Open Day for Migrants formerly housed at Scheyville ("Return to Scheyville") took place in April 2005.

The reunions at Scheyville of former occupants of the migrant hostel, reflecting the multicultural diversity of new Australians in the post World War II period, are of State significance.

Hamilton and Andersen identified through the oral history programme the sites and remains at Scheyville that were of greatest significance to the migrants and officers who lived there. It can be seen that there is significant overlap in significance between the groups especially around the SSAR huts.

The sites of greatest significance to the migrant period as identified in the oral history included⁴⁰:

- the Church sites - most interviewees expressed the important social role played by the Church.
- Kitchen and Dining Hall – (west SSAR Hut) – generally a place for all to meet and socialise.
- Pre-School/Hall – (east SSAR Hut) – this was a pre-school or child-minding centre for much of the Migrant Camp era, but at some stages was used as a social venue, and for dances and festivals (perhaps due to it having a wooden floor).
- School site where many learnt to speak English.
- Hospital - Several had experiences of time in hospital there, and quite a few babies were born in the Maternity Wing of the Hospital, particularly in the early years of the Camp.
- Laundry - it was a meeting place for many of the women – most had large families and spent quite some time there – women formed bonds with other migrants and children met there as well.
- Cinema/Community Hall site - was where everyone got together on a weekend night – entry was free so all could participate.
- Dams - many of the children played and swam in them
- Trees - particularly the pine trees along the drive and the big date palm in the quadrangle – Both of these figure prominently in people's memories.

Hamilton and Andersen's work also identified places at Scheyville of greatest significance to the OTU⁴¹. These included:

- the Parade Ground;
- the Gymnasium – (eastern SSAR Hut);
- the Cadets' Mess – (western SSAR Hut);

⁴⁰ Hamilton and Anderson op.cit.

⁴¹ Ibid.

- the Sandstone Gates;
- the Lines – The Cadets were housed in the migrant accommodation, which were lines of timber-framed buildings, clad in fibro, on concrete slabs;
- the War Memorial;
- the Headquarters building;
- the Firing range, Water Tower and (Dormitory Hill) Silo; and
- the Leadership and challenge courses.

The community response to proposed development of the former Common in the 1980s and 1990s, led by well-organised groups such as the Hawkesbury-Hills Airport Protest Committee (which issued a Heritage Report in 1984), the Concerned Residents against Development of Longneck and Environs and the work of the Longneck Lagoon Field Studies Centre from 1978 onwards, has been tangible evidence of the esteem in which various heritage values of the present Park are held by local people. This is of Local significance.

Criterion (e) Scientific and Technical

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of New South Wales' cultural or natural history.

The Cumberland Plain Woodland communities and other remnant natural areas of the park are becoming increasingly significant as sites for researching the impacts of changing flora and fauna composition and ecological communities in response to urbanisation and other environmental changes.

The archaeological potential of the park is high. Key areas with the potential to reveal further information of potentially state significance include the 1890s settlement houses near to the former school site and the layout and function of the various outbuildings in and around the Farm Precinct.

Criterion (f) Rarity

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of New South Wales' cultural or natural history.

The Commons of Pasture founded as a result of government policy in 1804 were few in number and Scheyville is among the best preserved. The cooperative farm and training farm for young men, both local and immigrant, are also rare in the State, and can be understood within the Park given appropriate interpretation. The farm was also a representative pioneering place for the agricultural education of women in the World War I period. The migrant hostel through which so many new Australians passed after World War II is also rare at a state level due to its physical survival.

Military training facilities were once common around NSW, with major existing comparable examples at Singleton, Holsworthy and Kapooka. There were also three other Officer Training Schools, at Duntroon, ACT, for Graduate Officers, Portsea Victoria, for enlisted men and Georges Heights, NSW for Women. The importance of Scheyville can be gauged by the fact that it produced more new officers than all of these schools combined during the period 1965-73. Whilst Duntroon is still in operation, Portsea and Georges Heights Officer Training Schools have closed, and been substantially demolished. Scheyville is thus a rare example at state level of a military training facility, with much of the training infrastructure still visible as standing structures or archaeological remains in the landscape.

The naturally vegetated areas of the national park represent the most extensive remnant of vegetation on Wianamatta Shale remaining on the Cumberland Plain, notably the Cumberland Plain Grey Box/Ironbark Woodland (listed as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995), as well as Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland and Shale/Gravel Transition Forest. The national park protects three threatened native plants and a number of regionally rare plant species. Ten birds listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act have been recorded in the national park (PoM).

g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's
- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

Scheyville is strongly associated with post war migration to Australia. The site is able to demonstrate at a state level the principal physical and social characteristics of migration camps and schemes of the mid twentieth century. The remaining huts, roads, administration buildings and recreational facilities from this period, combined with the oral testaments of the migrants themselves, are a rare and significant reminder of the role migration played in the history of NSW and Australia in the post world war II period. In this sense the remains of the camp are not dissimilar to those of Bonegilla in Victoria which has a higher number of extant standing buildings but which does not have the same depth of layered history as Scheyville.

Similarly the physical remains and oral histories related to the Officer Training Unit period at Scheyville are able to evocatively demonstrate the principal characteristics of this type of establishment. In particular the mess buildings, administration block, bbq areas, parade ground and training courses demonstrate the layout and functioning of the site during this period.

4.2 Statement of significance

Scheyville is an exceptional example of a layered cultural landscape with evidence of different uses from the early decades of the colony to the present day. Scheyville has retained its rural setting and this has contributed to the preservation of an outstanding heritage landscape of state significance, with a high degree of legibility.

Scheyville is able to demonstrate a long series of initiatives related to key government policies that have responded to the changing national and international environment, and had a major historical impact on Australian concepts of nationhood. Each phase of occupation at Scheyville has left a physical mark on the landscape and many of the recent phases of the history are richly evocative and resonate with themes and stories of direct relevance to contemporary history and debate in Australia. These include themes of rural life, immigration, military recruitment and training.

The continuing and vibrant interest shown by past residents of the place, and demonstrated through responses to Reunions and “Back To Scheyville” days and events, is indicative of the strong social values that the place still has, particularly for those associated with the Migrant Camp and the Officer Training Unit phases.

The 1804 Pitt Town Common was the first of a series of innovative agricultural ventures introduced at Scheyville to improve the economic and social circumstances of the rural community. Part of the common introduced by Governor King, is still discernible in the park boundaries. The Cooperative Farm and the Casual Labour Farm that followed are still present in the archaeological record and the extant manager’s residence also relates to this period. These phases of occupation and development in Scheyville’s history make a significant contribution to our understanding of food production in the early New South Wales colony as well as the impact of unemployment and skilled labour shortages in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are also associated with William F. Schey who was a significant figure in youth labour schemes at the time.

The Dreadnought phase is of state and national significance as the largest Dreadnought scheme farm in Australia and as a typical example of British child migration schemes. It is also significant that it was funded by monies originally donated to counter the perceived threat to a newly-independent Australia from the new Japanese Navy (by purchasing “Dreadnought” naval ships), and that a major aim of the scheme was to populate Australia with young men who could form a nucleus of a force to defend Australia from the possible Asian threat.

The Quadrangle Buildings from the Dreadnought phase are particularly significant both for their rarity, being the only purpose-built Dreadnought structures still extant, and for their landmark location overlooking the entranceway and early farm landscapes. The quadrangle buildings are modest in scale and design but are largely unaltered. They are significant for their ability to demonstrate past institutional uses related the Dreadnought and OTU phase and have had continuous administration uses since 1929.

The remains of the Officer Training Unit operating from Scheyville from the Vietnam War period are particularly significant at state level for their rarity and their ability to demonstrate the training and social practices of the cadets and officers that might otherwise not be easily seen by the general public. Until relatively recently, the role of Australian soldiers in Vietnam has not been publicly acknowledged or commemorated. This gives Scheyville the potential to be a profoundly significant site for acknowledging, commemorating and educating the public about the experience of those that fought in the Vietnam War.

The migrant phase at Scheyville is of state and possibly national significance for its rare combination of physical, documentary and oral evidence. The remaining SSAR huts, coupled with the building pads from structures demolished in the 1980s and 1990s, give the site an easy legibility that makes it highly significant and, coupled with the ready public access, comparatively rare. The site size and layout is illustrative of the scale of post-WWII migration to Australia and is of state significance.

The SSAR huts are themselves of state significance as rare survivors of this building type. The survival of more than one SSAR hut on site is also quite exceptional according to recent comparative studies of prefabricated buildings of this type.

The historic remains in Scheyville National Park provide evidence of an evolving cultural landscape of state significance. The Dreadnought Farm, Migrant Camp and OTU phases are of particular significance to the state, with the other phases being of considerable contributory significance in understanding the evolution of the landscape of the site.

4.3 Degree of Significance

The major elements of the site have varying degrees of significance, each of which will determine an appropriate conservation treatment for that element. The gradings used are:

- High
- Medium
- Low, and
- Intrusive
- TBA: to be further assessed

Feature	Significance
East SSAR hut	High
West SSAR hut	High
West kitchen exterior	High
Concrete slabs remaining from dormitory and ablutions buildings, school and community buildings	High
Concrete garden paths	Medium
Sandstone entry gates and walls to the Park	High
Parade ground, and stairs	High
Monument with OTU memorial plaque	High
Boilers and associated reticulation	Medium
Garden elements (pond, barbecue pit, seat, remnant fences)	Medium
Ornamental trees (structural plantings including cypress and casuarinas)	Medium
Weeds in open areas	Intrusive
Migrants' drying area as open space	Medium
Water tanks on elevated stands and associated pipework	Low
Orchards	High

Quadrangle Fabric

Entrance driveway from Scheyville Road	High
Administrative Block	High
Dormitory Blocks 1 & 2	High
Dining Block	High
Courtyard	High
Quadrangle setting	High
Roof elements	High
Wall elements	High
Veranda and Courtyard walkway elements	High
Window/door elements	High
Original 1929 internal fabric	High
1950 internal fabric	TBA
1965 to 1975 internal fabric	TBA
1978 to 1983 internal fabric	TBA
Original services	High

Post-1950 services	TBA
1929 Dining Block kitchen and laundry facilities	High

Other Buildings

c1890's Former managers residence (H2)	High
1929 Sub Station (No 51)	High
1929 Residence near the entrance gates (H1)	High
C1950s Hut -former store (No 6)	High
C1950s Hut - Second Store (No 5)	High
C1950s Hut - store (No 56)	High
C1950s Former hospital (No 57) part only remains	High
C1950s Ablution block (No 41)	High
C1950s Ablution block (No 47)	High
Post 1965 Squash Court (No 69) and tennis complex	Medium
Prior to 1985 Transport Compound No C & No D)	Low
Post 1991 NPWS Maintenance shed	Low

Archaeological Sites

Farm and associated archaeological sites	High
Sandstone quarry area	High
OTU Obstacle Course	High
OTU Challenge Course	High
Sewage treatment Works	High
Aboriginal archaeological sites	High

The following actions are to accompany the relevant gradings of significance.

Gradings of Significance	Conservation
High Significance	Preservation, Restoration, or Reconstruction. Adaptation may also be acceptable provided the degree of change is limited in scope and has no adverse effect on adjacent spaces or fabric of exceptional significance.
Medium Significance	Preservation or Adaptation.
Little Significance	Preservation, Adaptation or Removal.
Intrusive	Adaptation or removal in order that the significance of the building is enhanced but subject to existing and future use requirements.

5 ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 Generally

This section outlines key issues, constraints and opportunities that have been considered in the development of Conservation Policy. These include the following:

1. Statutory and non-statutory obligations.
2. Issues arising from the statement of significance
3. Issues relating to cultural and natural heritage
4. Implications of regional growth
5. DECCs needs and requirements

5.2 Statutory Obligations

Scheyville National Park is governed by the following legislation, regulations and planning instruments:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act*, 1995.
- *NSW Heritage Act*, 1977.
- *Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve Plan of Management*, September 2000.
- *The Noxious Weeds Act 1993*;
- *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 20 Hawkesbury-Nepean River* (No 2 1997) (SREP 20).
- *Building Code of Australia* (Australian Building Codes Board) 1996.
- *Contaminated Lands Management Act 1998*

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) established the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The NPWS is responsible for the administration of lands reserved under the NPW Act. The NPWS also has responsibility for threatened species under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The purpose of reserving land under the NPW Act is to identify, protect and conserve “areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation and inspiration and sustainable visitor use and enjoyment...”⁴²

The NPW Act allows for the granting of leases and licenses for the provision of facilities and amenities for tourists and visitors. In addition it allows for the use of existing building or structure for the purposes of providing educational or research facilities relating to the natural or cultural values of the place, retail outlets, food outlets, cultural institutions, accommodation, conference and sporting facilities, facilities and amenities for tourists, and facilities related to Aboriginal culture and cultural activities⁴³.

Under the NPW Act Plans of Management are required for all gazetted reserves. *The Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve Plan of Management* September 2000 controls DECC operations at Scheyville National Park under s.81(4) of the NPW Act. The PoM states a number of objectives, policies and high priority actions which relate to the ongoing management of the historic buildings and features. The natural environment is extensively covered through descriptions of landscape types, flora and fauna and the ongoing management of the Cumberland Woodland vegetation.

In the PoM the policy for historic heritage is largely based on the information contained in the draft Conservation Plan for Scheyville Site Former Officer Training Camp written by Graham Edds and Associates in 1991. This current CMP (2008) should be used to update the cultural heritage information in the PoM.

⁴² NPW Act 30E (1)

⁴³ Ibid 151B

Key policies from the PoM that directly affect the management of the historic buildings and features:

Historic buildings and structures will be stabilised where necessary.

No new buildings will be constructed in the historic precinct around the Dreadnought complex or near the pre-1929 sites.

Uses for the historic buildings on the national park, such as accommodation, interpretation and offices, which are consistent with the NPWS Act and protection of the natural and cultural environment will be investigated. Any proposal which involves changes in the management or use of the buildings will be placed on exhibition for public comment.

Public access to the historic precinct will be maintained.

No excavation work will be undertaken in the historic precinct around the Dreadnought/migration buildings or the pre-1929 sites without an excavation permit issued under the Heritage Act 1977.

The landscape surrounding the Dreadnought migration buildings and pre 1909 farm sites will be maintained as grassland with scattered trees. Introduced plants which are part of the historic landscape ...the pines along the entrance road and introduced trees associated with the pre-1929 sites, will be identified in a landscape plan and replaced with trees of the same species when they become senescent or die.

A trail which includes the significant historic sites and structures on the park will be developed and the historic heritage of the park will be included on interpretive signs and brochures.

Wire and metal fences may be removed from internal fences, structures fenced, openings into buildings covered and some of the tin lying on the ground removed to make the park safer for visitors.

Research into the history of Scheyville will be encouraged.⁴⁴

Items of Aboriginal heritage are protected in NSW under the NPW Act. Under the Act all Aboriginal places and objects are protected and the DECC Director General is responsible for the “proper care, preservation and protection of any Aboriginal object of Aboriginal place on any land reserved under [the] Act” as well as for the “proper restoration of any such land that has been disturbed or excavated for the purpose of discovering an Aboriginal object”.⁴⁵

Under the Act DECC administers the permit provisions of the NPW Act. Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) are required prior to any works which may directly or indirectly have an impact upon Aboriginal items.

NSW Heritage Act 1977

The NSW *Heritage Act 1977* includes various provisions for protecting identified items of cultural and natural heritage. Section 170 of the Act requires that significant places be listed in the NPWS Heritage and Conservation Register. Scheyville is listed on the DECC S170 register.

⁴⁴ NPWS 2000: 25-26.

⁴⁵ NPWAct Act 85

The Heritage Act also establishes a register of places of state significance, the State Heritage Register. Places on this register are subject to certain legislative constraints. Scheyville is not listed on the State Heritage Register however it would be eligible for listing.

The archaeological provisions of the Heritage Act are applicable at Scheyville and any work which is likely to affect significant relics will require a permit issued under this section of the act.

Aboriginal heritage is primarily protected under the NPW Act but may be subject to the provisions of the Heritage Act if the item is listed on the State Heritage Register or subject to an Interim Heritage Order (IHO).

The Director of Cultural Heritage Division, DECC has delegation under the Heritage Act to determine applications for certain minor works affecting relics and to issue excavation permits on DECC managed lands.

Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995

Under Schedule 1 of Part 3 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (1995) the Cumberland Plain Woodland (of which large sections of Scheyville National Park are a part) is listed as an endangered ecological community. The Act imposes a regime of protection of this critical ecological community including an obligation on DECC to prepare a Recovery Plan for it. The draft Cumberland Plain Woodland Recovery Plan has been prepared and this is used as the basis for the management.

DECC must also consider the cultural heritage components of legislation under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (1995) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (1979). Under section 57 (3) of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (1995) there is a requirement to consider the knowledge and interests of Indigenous people in the preparation of recovery plans. Recovery planning for threatened species often has a clear cultural heritage aspect.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

Under the Infrastructure SEPP work to locally listed heritage items that are not listed on the State Heritage Register will require consultation with local government authorities. This will apply to much of the Scheyville National Park. Under the SEPP some work may be exempt from having to be subject to a Review of Environmental Factors although legislative provisions related to threatened species, Aboriginal and historic heritage still apply.

Guidelines on the SEPP are currently being prepared by DECC and should be referred to in future for information regarding approvals, relevant consultation procedures etc.

Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The EPBC Act establishes a register of places of national significance, the National Heritage List. Scheyville is not currently listed on the National Heritage List but the assessment and statement of significance prepared as part of this document suggests that it may be eligible for future listing. In order for the place to be listed on the National Heritage List it would have to be assessed against the national heritage criteria described above. As noted above, further research will have to be undertaken into the significance of the place to the whole of Australia should a national listing be pursued.

Sydney Regional Environment Plan No 20. Hawkesbury Nepean River

Scheyville National Park is situated in the Longneck Creek catchment, a tributary of the Hawkesbury River. It is considered an environmentally sensitive area. Sydney Regional Environment Plan (REP) No.20 integrates planning with catchment management to protect the river system of the Hawkesbury-Nepean. The impact of future land use is to be considered in a regional context. The plan covers water quality and quantity, environmentally sensitive areas, riverine scenic quality, agriculture, and urban and rural residential development. It controls development that has the potential to impact on the river environment. The plan applies to all parts of the catchment in the Sydney Region (15 local government

areas), except for land covered by Sydney REP No. 11 - Penrith Lakes Scheme. The REP is supported by an Action Plan, which includes actions necessary to improve existing conditions.

The following clauses have relevance to the formulation of Conservation Policy:

Part 6 (2)(c): "Minimise direct and indirect adverse impacts on land reserved or dedicated under the NPWS Act 1974...and conservation area subcatchments in order to protect water quality and biodiversity."

Part 6(2)(e): "Consider the need to create buffer zones (such as adequate fire radiation zones) for proposals on land adjacent to land reserved or dedicated under the NPWS Act 1974..."

Part 6(2)(f): "Consider the views of the Director-General of NPWS about proposals for land adjacent to land reserved or dedicated under the NPWS Act 1974..."

Part 6 (5) (a): "Encourage development which facilitates the conservation of heritage items if it does not detract from the significance of the items."

Part 6(5)(b): "Protect Aboriginal sites and places of significance."

Building Code of Australia ("BCA")

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) governs construction standards for dwellings and other buildings in Australia. The code, in conjunction with the Standards Association of Australia, covers issues such as the standards of materials and construction techniques, fire safety, means of escape, access to light and ventilation, and adequate connections to services.

Any adaptive reuse of building fabric on the site may need to comply with the BCA.

The following Sections of the BCA could be complied with without major impacts to the cultural significance or interpretive value of the building fabric.

Section C - Fire Resistance

Section D - Access and Egress (Including disabled access)

Section E - Services and Equipment

Section F- Health and Amenity

5.3 Non-Statutory Constraints

The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999 (The Burra Charter)

The Burra Charter provides detailed conservation principles that should be considered when developing the conservation policy for a place. The articles of the Burra Charter provide guidelines regarding the obligations of conservation policy and have been used in the formulation of policy for the Historic buildings and features of Scheyville National Park.

The articles of the Burra Charter that provide the basis for policy state that: -

Places of cultural significance should be conserved (Article 2.1);

The cultural significance of a place should be retained (Article 2.2);

A place of cultural significance should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state (Article 2.4);

Conservation is based on a respect for the fabric, use, associations and meanings of a place and therefore a 'cautious approach' of 'changing as much as necessary and as little as possible' needs to be implemented (Article 3.1);

Any changes to a place should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture (Article 3.2);

Traditional techniques and materials should be used, wherever possible, in the conservation of the significant fabric of a place (Article 4.2);

The conservation of a place should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others (Article 5.1);

The development of conservation policy should include the consideration of factors that affect the future of a place. Therefore the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and the physical condition of the place need to be considered before the conservation policy for a place can be developed (Article 6.3);

"Where the use of a place is of cultural significance it should be retained" and that wherever possible, "a place should have a compatible use"(Article 7);

The following Articles of the Burra Charter have implications in the formulation of conservation policy :
The Burra Charter is accepted by the Heritage Council of New South Wales as the main guide to conservation practices. The following are the relevant articles:

Place includes in its meaning site, area, landscape, group of buildings or other works and may include spaces and views. (Article 1.1)

Fabric refers to all the physical material of the place. (Article.1.3)

Fabric from all periods should be recognised as contributing to the significance of the item and should be retained and conserved. (A.5, 13 and 15)

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance and it includes maintenance and may include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation. (A.1.4)

Conservation work should involve minimum interference to the existing fabric. (A.3)

Setting refers to the visual catchment of a place. (A. 1.12)

Provision should be made for the continuing security and maintenance of significant items. (A.2 and 16)

Conservation requires the retention of appropriate visual setting and other relationships which contribute to cultural significance. (A.8)

Preservation is to be adopted when the existing fabric constitutes evidence of cultural significance, or where evidence is too limited to warrant any other conservation processes. (A.17)

Adaptation should have minimal impact on cultural significance and should involve minimal change to significant fabric when alternatives have been considered. (A.21)

New work is acceptable when it does not obscure or distort significance. (A.22)

Significant associations between people and a place should be respected and interpreted where possible. (A. 24)

Where cultural significance is not readily apparent it should be explained by interpretation. (A. 25)

Existing fabric should be recorded before disturbance occurs. (A. 27)

Disturbance of fabric may occur in order to provide evidence needed for making of decisions on the conservation of the place. (A.28)

A record should be kept of new evidence and future decisions. (A.27, 31 & 32)

Copies of all reports and records should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available. (A. 32.2)

Fabric of cultural significance already or subsequently removed should be kept in a secure repository and professionally catalogued and protected. (A.33)

DECC's Cultural Heritage Strategic Policy 2006

DECC is responsible for managing and protecting all cultural heritage values on the lands it manages and for Aboriginal cultural heritage across the whole NSW landscape. The Draft Cultural Heritage Policy is intended to inform and guide DECC staff and consultants and contractors employed by DECC in the principles for managing DECC's cultural heritage responsibilities. This policy is also designed to inform communities about the approach of DECC to its cultural heritage responsibilities.

Three focus areas for the policy have been identified to shape the strategic direction for cultural heritage management within DECC. These areas are: Connecting communities with their heritage; leading the conservation agenda and conservation in a landscape context. These focus areas are directly relevant to heritage management at Scheyville where:

- There are strong connections between community groups and the site.
- Conservation work is being undertaken using skilled trades people and the advice of heritage professionals.
- The CMP recognizes the context for management of the cultural heritage is the wider environment encompassing natural heritage, community and stakeholder views as well as cultural heritage values.

NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan (2003-2012) - *Two Ways Together*

Under the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan (2003-2012) - '*Two Ways Together*', DECC is responsible for leading the intergovernmental culture and heritage group. The focus of this group is on helping Aboriginal people to protect, practice and promote their culture and heritage. As well as being the lead agency for the culture and heritage group or "cluster", DECC has broader responsibilities under '*Two Ways Together*'. This will involve working internally, with other government agencies and Aboriginal communities to develop innovative approaches that deliver measurable improvements for Aboriginal communities. For DECC, focus areas are creating partnerships with Aboriginal communities to achieve a healthier and cleaner environment, improved community well being and the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Register of the National Estate.

The Register of the National Estate is a register of significant natural and cultural items from across Australia. The Register is maintained by the Australian Heritage Council. It was frozen in 2007 and no entries will be removed or added in future as the list has been replaced by a new national framework for listing and managing significant places. The register still provides however a useful indicator of the significance places and items on the list.

Two places in and around Scheyville National Park are identified on the National Estate register. These are: -

1. Longneck Lagoon Natural Area, Scheyville NSW (Database Number 016373). This natural site is registered because it "contains the most extensive remnant of the once extensive vegetation communities on Wianamatta shale found on the Cumberland Plain." This vegetation type has now been substantially cleared for agricultural and urban purposes, and the area supports a large viable population of the vulnerable plant species *acacia pubescens*;³ and

2. Scheyville Bushland Remnant, Oakville NSW (Database Number 019033). This natural site is currently an indicative place', and is under assessment for addition to the Register of the National Estate. This place has been submitted for review because it is Western Sydney's last remnant of vegetation on Ashfield Shale that supports the *acacia pubescens* species.

5.4 Issues arising from Cultural Significance

Social significance and inter-generational change

The contemporary social significance of Scheyville is defined by the memories, experiences and views of the past residents. Currently Scheyville has a comparatively small number of migrants and OTU Graduates who visit the site on informal personal visits or as part of organised annual or occasional reunions. These people are a key audience for the current conservation and interpretation programs organised at the site.

It is unclear at this stage however, whether or not the social significance of the site to contemporary communities will prove to be inter-generational. Previous occupants of the site lived or worked at Scheyville for relatively short, defined periods of time. The diversity of uses over time has meant that there has not been a long continuity of association with the place by any one group. It should be expected therefore that over time, as people with direct association with the site pass on, that these formal and informal visits by people with a direct association with the place will decline in number. A reassessment of the social values of Scheyville will therefore need to be undertaken at various points in time to determine both social value of the place to contemporary communities and to identify new audiences for the conservation and interpretation programs.

The immediate impact of the potential for a decline in the contemporary social values of the site is on the requirement to make the story of Scheyville and its history and residents resonate on more than just a local or personal level. Programs that place Scheyville in the context of state and national historic themes and development are essential to raise the profile and visitation to this site. New uses for the place, appropriate given the long history of new uses, will also become increasingly important to the ongoing vitality of the site. Functions such as accommodation, interpretation, festivals and public events provide the opportunity for new attachments to be made to the place and this will be critical to ensuring the ongoing conservation of the site.

In order to protect and ensure the ongoing recognition of the cultural significance of Scheyville National Park, NPWS will need to consider the following issues arising from the assessment of cultural significance:

- Wide community access is a key element to retain the cultural significance of the Place.
- The local community needs to be engaged in discussions about park uses
- Viable long-term uses for the place need to be scoped.
- The place needs to be conserved and maintained for current and future generations.

Interpretation

A large part of the significance of Scheyville lies in the layers of history at the site combined with a good availability of source material. A strong interpretation program will be of critical importance in increasing visitation and promoting the significant values of the place. This interpretation needs to be both site based and available off site through web based information such as that on the Migration Heritage Web site.

New uses for existing buildings

Scheyville has a long history of changes in use to the site and its buildings. The site layout, landscape, infrastructure and built heritage have been adapted over time to meet the demands of a variety of often unrelated institutional uses. These changes define the significance of the place. The history of change, combined with the potentially diminishing contemporary social value of the site, makes Scheyville particularly suitable to housing new uses and functions. Finding suitable new functions for the existing buildings that reflect some of the common past uses (for example accommodation and office space in the quadrangle complex, communal functions such as dining in the SSAR huts etc) will be a key factor in ensuring that the significance of the site continues to resonate with both the local and broader community. Engaging with younger visitors through school or other programs will be critical for the ongoing success of any conservation, interpretation or adaptive reuse programs.

5.5 Issues related to Natural Heritage management

Introduced Species

Competition for resources from introduced species, including feral and domestic animals, introduced plants, pasture grasses and common weeds, is a serious threat to the natural heritage of Scheyville National Park. A number of animals have been introduced to the Scheyville area since European settlement. These include cats, dogs, rabbits and foxes.

Exotic plants have also caused problems for the native vegetation. Weeds found in the Scheyville National Park causing the most problems include African Olive (*Olea Africana*), Large and Small-leaved Privet (*ligustrum sp.*), Willow (*Salix sp.*), Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Blackberry (*Rubus sp.*), Bridal Veil Creeper (*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*), Moth Vine (*Araujia hortorum*), Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*) and African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*). These weeds compete with the native plants for light, water and nutrients.

At Longneck Lagoon the European Carp's bottom feeding habit stirs up sediments increasing the turbidity of the water. This results in a decrease in native organisms, fish and water plants which rely on light penetrating through the water for their survival.

Control and eventual eradication of these pest species will be crucial to the long term survival of the area's ecology.

Habitat Destruction

Habitat destruction is mainly a result of extensive vegetation clearance since European settlement for grazing and timber-getting purposes.

The continual clearance of native vegetation for rural residential housing development as well as agricultural purposes is still posing a threat to biodiversity in the Catchment. The fragmentation of areas of vegetation means that populations of native plants and animals are more open to external influences.

Water Quality

Turbidity, salinity and increased nutrient levels are the main water quality problems that are affecting biodiversity, particularly around the lagoon fringe. In general these have been caused by clearing, the loss of vegetation and vegetative cover and over use of fertilisers and irrigation. The type of roads also contribute with the continual grading of road verges exposing more soil for erosion.

Fire Regimes

Changes to the fire regimes originally used by Aborigines living in the Longneck Catchment have already affected the diversity of plant life and the range of habitat types available. Certain vegetation types and individual species require a minimum inter-fire period to maintain healthy populations while others require fire for germination.

Management of Cumberland Plain Woodland

NPWS mapped remnants of the Cumberland Plain woodland throughout the Park and on the Farm in 2000. In 2002, the authors of a draft CMP for the Farm area assessed four landscape management options for their suitability in consultation with NPWS. The preferred option was to retain the essential pastoral character of the cultural landscape but also allow corridors of Cumberland Plain woodland to regenerate.

The management of cultural significance will require the maintenance of vistas and the revealing of archaeological sites for public interpretation and will need to be balanced against the regeneration of the natural vegetation that is currently being undertaken.

Amendments to the Plan of Management may need to be made in order to manage the growth of *Bursaria spinuosa* and other protected species to maintain vistas and legibility of the cultural landscape. These changes would be made possible by the NPW Amendment Act (subsection (a) and (c) of section 7(2) which allows for particular management regimes to be adopted within a "modified natural area")

The fragments of Cumberland Plain Woodland that exist in Scheyville National Park are vulnerable to disturbances, such as weed invasion, increased soil nutrients, rubbish dumping and frequent fire. Weeds, such as African lovegrass, African olive, bridal veil creeper and Rhodes grass are a major threat.

The recovery of this ecological community is being addressed as part of the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities Recovery Plan, which is currently being prepared. Because the original extent of Cumberland Plain Woodland has been greatly reduced, high conservation value remnants will be identified in the recovery plan and recommended for protection through a range of mechanisms including reservation, environmental protection zoning and development control processes.

Cumberland Plain Woodland remnants should be managed to maintain all vegetation layers. The understorey needs to be conserved as its removal reduces the viability of the remnants and encourages weeds. Cumberland Plain Woodland can regenerate naturally once threats, such as weeds, grazing and mowing/slashing, are controlled.

The edges of remnants are prone to weed invasion and need to be regularly monitored. Frequent fires (occurring less than five years apart) can lead to a loss of plant species, which are unable to quickly set seed or regenerate in a short space of time. Replanting should only occur when natural regeneration is not possible, and locally sourced seeds should be used to ensure genetic integrity.

5.6 Implications from predicted Regional Growth

The State Government's metropolitan growth strategy, including improved road and rail access in the area in the next 10 years, will provide Scheyville National Park with a larger population catchment and wider communities of interest. Forecast urban growth in the North West Sector should significantly increase the population with easy access to the Scheyville National Park, and will increase pressures for more intensive use of the place. This will create an increased demand for access to the site and also increase the audience for any conservation, management and interpretation programs.

5.7 Current access and circulation issues

The overwhelming majority of visitors to Scheyville National Park arrive by private vehicle. Public transport to the Park is by a limited bus service from Windsor which is infrequent at weekends. Once

within the site, visitors use the existing roadways / pathways to access buildings within the Scheyville Camp. Continuing to use the main entrance off Scheyville Road which offers views to the administration building and farm is the best way to maximise the visitor's experience on first encountering the site.

The huts and quadrangle buildings are single storey and could be adapted to allow for wheelchair access in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Visitor access to the farm is via a series of mown grass 'pathways'. This low-key style of pathway should be continued to avoid the need for introducing formal tracks into this area. The existing mown grass pathways are adequate for the relatively low level of visitor use at the present time. There is an opportunity to expand this network.

5.8 Educational and interpretive opportunities

Scheyville National Park has enormous potential as an educational resource for schools, providing opportunities for the study of history, the social & natural sciences, architecture, photography, and heritage conservation. While there is much potential to expand the educational use of the site, ongoing success depends to some degree on linking the place to current key learning areas in school curricula.

Opportunities exist for the place to be included in the itineraries of cultural tourism groups, special interest groups, business people's clubs (e.g. Rotary clubs, Probus groups) and historical societies, and for Scheyville National Park to be promoted as a tourist destination.

An integrated approach is called for that promotes the site's cultural significance, educational and recreational opportunities more widely. The Northwest Partnership in Heritage Management and Interpretation is a shared strategy for NPWS NSW, Powerhouse Museum, Historic Houses Trust and the Migration Heritage Centre NSW. The purpose of this partnership is to engage the wider community in integrated learning experiences across the Northern Cumberland Plain, a region of national natural and cultural heritage significance. Scheyville is considered to be a key site in this partnership.

6 CONSERVATION POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Generally

This CMP identifies cultural significance and provides conservation policies for the long-term conservation and management of the historic buildings and features within Scheyville National Park. The policies have been formulated in accordance with the principles and guidelines contained within the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Significance (The Burra Charter), the NSW Heritage Manual and JS Kerr's, *The Conservation Plan*. The conservation and management policies are based upon the Statement of Cultural Significance and the issues, opportunities and constraints that have arisen from it.

This CMP should be read in conjunction with the Plan of Management for Scheyville National Park which provides broader recommendations setting out the types of activities that can occur within the site as well as management priorities.

This CMP, in conjunction with the Plan of Management, is intended to be used as a basis for the management of the Scheyville National Park.

6.2 General Management Objectives of National Parks in NSW

The following general objectives are derived from the NPWS Act and relate to the management of national parks in New South Wales:

- the protection and preservation of scenic and natural features;
- the conservation of wildlife;
- the maintenance of natural processes as far as is possible;
- the preservation of Aboriginal sites and historic features;
- the preservation of catchment values;
- the encouragement of scientific and educational inquiry into environmental features and process, and prehistoric and historic features; and
- the provision of appropriate recreation opportunities.

6.3 Site Specific Management Objectives

In addition to the general objectives outlined above, the following more specific objectives have been adopted for Scheyville National Park:

- development of opportunities to interpret, research and promote the rich history of the site and its cultural heritage values;
- protection and enhancement of the natural vegetation of the national park and nature reserve, particularly the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland;
- protection and enhancement of Longneck and Pitt Town Lagoons as habitat for migratory water birds;
- protection of the catchment values of Longneck Lagoon;
- interpretation of the long and changing use of Scheyville National Park
- promotion of the appropriate use of the buildings at Scheyville so as to provide for their future maintenance; and
- provision of facilities for formal and informal recreational opportunities within Scheyville National Park consistent with the protection of the natural and cultural values of the park.

6.4 Vision for Scheyville National Park

To create a lively, interesting and educational place that conserves and promotes the site's cultural and natural values.

To develop Scheyville National Park as a key regional destination for cultural tourism and education.

To develop partnerships with agencies and the private sector in interpretation, adaptive reuse and promotion.

6.5 Conservation Policies

This section sets out the key policies for the management of Scheyville National Park. Each policy includes a name, a description of the aims of that particular policy and appropriate actions related to that policy area. A five year works program is also included in Section 7 of the report. +

The policies have been formulated to:

1. identify in general terms the best ways to conserve the site into the future (**Philosophy and methodology for conservation**);
2. retain and enhance those features and fabric that contribute to the significance as well as cultural and natural landscape setting (**Fabric and setting**);
3. provide guidance for the day to day care of the significant items and the landscape. (**Maintenance**);
4. provide guidance for the management of the site including the role that the community and key groups with links to the site can play. (**Management**);
5. facilitate the ongoing use of the site and provide guidance for sympathetic development within the site and allow minor fabric alteration to sustain such use (**Future use and development**);
6. retain and enhance the character and quality of the buildings and their significant features (**Interpretation**);
7. require the adoption and review of this conservation management plan. (**Adoption and review**).

6.6 Philosophy and Methodology for Conservation

Aim To ensure that the conservation of Scheyville National Park is undertaken in accordance with current conservation methodology and practice.

Policies

- All conservation works, new works and interpretation initiatives are to be in accordance with the principles and guidelines set down in the Burra Charter.
- Appropriately skilled heritage practitioners will be engaged to research, assess, analyse, document and administer conservation works at Scheyville National Park to ensure its layered fabric history and interpretive capacity is retained and revealed where appropriate.
- Recognise that adaptive re-use of buildings is permissible within the Scheyville National Park and that new uses selected should be compatible with the cultural significance of the place.

6.7 Fabric & Setting

Aims: To provide for the protection and appropriate management of significant fabric and landscape elements
To provide guidance on the introduction of new materials and services
To provide precinct specific policies where appropriate
To conserve fabric in accordance with its assessed significance
To protect and conserve significant Aboriginal, historical archaeological and movable heritage

Policies: general

- No new works will be undertaken that would diminish the cultural significance of the Place. Physical intervention in the fabric will be minimised and will be in accordance with the Burra Charter.
- Remaining evidence of layered fabric and fabric changes of the Dreadnought, migrant and OTU periods will be retained and conserved in accordance with the level of significance assigned to them. Unless otherwise stated in policies, surviving original fabric, spaces and plan layout within the buildings should remain intact.
- All of the culturally significant joinery will be conserved in situ if possible, including the finishes and original hardware. Original door and window hardware will be retained in situ and be supplemented with compatible modern lock hardware where required to provide required security.

Policies: significant fabric

- All future decisions related to conservation works will be based on sound knowledge of the documentary and physical evidence. If necessary additional research will be undertaken prior to commencement of new works.
- Fabric intervention will be based on the grading of significance, but fabric will generally be retained except where removal is required to reveal and interpret more significant uses (eg removal of 1950 partitions in part of a Dormitory building to reveal a 1929 dormitory space).
- The remaining recreational facilities and spaces including the squash courts and tennis courts and former parade ground form an integral part of the place and will be retained.
- External and internal building fabric noted as of exceptional or high significance in Appendix 1, maintenance schedules, is to be retained, preserved and maintained.
- The existing building components, spaces, fabric and contents will be conserved in accordance with their assessed significance by adopting the approach of 'doing as little as possible and only as much as is necessary'.

Policies: Introduction of new materials

- Any new fabric that is used for stabilisation, repair or adaptive re-use will be clearly distinguishable as new work upon close inspection and recorded. Date stamping of new fabric is generally recommended.
- New materials may be introduced internally for acoustic and thermal performance, where such materials can be removed (eg carpet.).
- Any significant material that may need to be removed or replaced as a result of the conservation process will be assessed for its significance, future usefulness and ability to aid in the interpretation of the place.
- Materials that have been removed and are assessed as having no future usefulness may be recorded for archival purposes and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- New materials and techniques may be introduced provided they do not impact on the significance of the fabric and are compatible with the fabric they come in contact with (eg avoid zincalume, metals and lead).
- Significant internal linings should generally not be disturbed. Irreparably damaged or missing internal linings will be replaced with like material.
- Floor finishes in the kitchen areas may be altered and adapted as necessary to meet current health regulations.
- If huts require internal dividers then these will be provided in their original positions where there is evidence for this.
- All remnants of the steam reticulation system in the huts will be left in place unless these are unsafe.
- The steam heaters in the west hut will be retained in situ.

Actions:

- The timber floor of the east hut will be repaired or replaced using species consistent with the existing. The concrete flooring of the west hut may be repaired or re-covered (such as with lino or carpet).
- Consider reconstructing a section of the overhead reticulation system

Policies: services

- The introduction of some new services such as security surveillance equipment and the like may enhance the retention of the significance and reverse or lessen loss of fabric due to vandalism and are considered acceptable.
- Where essential new services need to be introduced this will be done in ways that minimise visual and physical impacts on significant fabric (eg. this may require chasing in of services so the cabling does not become intrusive).
- Disconnected services and remnant fabric which does not meet current compliance requirements will be retained in-situ unless they pose a safety hazard to the building and its occupants. If removal is required it will be recorded removed in accordance with Work cover recommended practice.
- All existing services will be assessed, tested and repaired where possible. New services are to be installed discreetly with minimal fabric intervention. Major services upgrading to kitchen, toilets, cool rooms, etc will be designed and installed to avoid major fabric alterations.

Policies: Reconstruction

- Reconstruction of demolished or missing elements may be considered as need arises.

Actions

- Consider the re-commissioning of the former kitchen areas, toilet and showers, and associated services as need arises. Design and install so as to utilise as much of the existing infrastructure as possible, where it complies with current health regulations and requirements.
- Further investigate the reconstruction of the c1965 lean to extension on the south end of west SSAR in consultation with the OTU association.
- The infirmary to be stabilised and reconstructed if funds become available. Investigate costing and specifications for the stabilisation / reconstruction of the infirmary.
- Consider the repair and reconstruction of the pond, garden seat, barbecue area, remnant standard garden lamps & walkways between the SSAR huts.
- Consider reconstructing the former garden plantings within the quadrangle and hut courtyards in accordance with the photographic evidence.

Policies: Fire Protection

- NPWS will provide adequate fire protection for all structures and buildings on the site.
- All fire services are to be designed using fire engineering principles and assessed under the performance provisions of the BCA.

Actions

- The NPWS will supply a Fire Safety Certificate in accordance with Form 15 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 1994 with respect to each essential fire safety measure installed in the buildings to the Hawkesbury City Council, on completion of the work and/or prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate. An annual fire safety statement for the buildings will also be provided.
- If the buildings are not to be occupied for a continuous period of 60 days or more then a smoke detection system must be installed with associated communication systems connected to the Fire Brigade.
- All rubbish that can be considered as flammable must be removed from the site. All gutters must be regularly cleaned and any vegetation close to the building must be maintained and kept in a safe condition.

Policies: Buildings Precinct

- The landscape setting of the Scheyville camp, with its formal plantings of exotic Cypress trees, palms and oleanders contrasting with the broader park-like character of the surrounding cultural landscape will be conserved.
- Significant buildings, roadways, landscape elements and concrete slabs in the camp area will be retained in accordance with their assessed level of significance.
- The sandstone flanking walls and Golden Cypress plantings at the Park entrance will be conserved.
- Significant trees will be replaced by the same or similar species in the same location at the end of their safe, useful life expectancy. Tree removal and replacement will be staged to avoid visual impact on the setting.
- The landscaped areas around the SSAR hut, quadrangle buildings and slabs will be managed as mown lawn. Mown areas will be maintained to allow slabs & footpaths to be visible and to reduce fire risk.

Actions

- Prepare an arborist's report on the conservation of the remnant cultural plantings. This report should outline required remedial pruning, watering, fertilizing and de-compaction etc. that needs to be undertaken to improve the health and vigour of the existing trees, many of which are in poor condition.
- Undertake regular mowing / slashing around the SSAR huts, quadrangle buildings and slabs within the Camp area.
- Undertake weed control measures within the Camp area.
- Remove self sown trees such as Casuarinas that are located within 5 metres of significant buildings or drainage infrastructure.
- Keep parade ground and entrance road clear of weeds and grasses.
- Consider marking each slab to identify the former building use.

Policies: The Farm Precinct

- Important view corridors identified in this report will be managed in such a way that a reasonable degree of inter-visibility between the Quadrangle buildings and silos and other farm structures is maintained. Re-growth after the recent fires will be managed so that it does not obscure, damage or create a fire risk for significant archaeological sites, buildings or fabric.
- Conserve significant cultural planting and where required replace with the same or similar species when they become senescent or die and be planted in the same configuration. This does not apply to species that have problematic or invasive such as Coral trees.
- All remaining building posts, including fence posts and the remains of the stables building, will be preserved and undergo conservation to slow down natural deterioration. Any new work will be clearly delineated and date stamped.

Actions

- Continue to provide on-going integrated weed management to address the infestation of blackberry and other weeds in the vicinity of the archaeological sites which is damaging fabric.
- Prioritise weed management around dams to prevent erosion.
- Manage vegetation re-growth within significant view corridors between key features such as the single silo and old dairy, the single silo and ruins of former Barn and Former Farm Manager's House. Remove some under-storey vegetation, promote native grasses and to crown raise existing trees within these corridors to maintain visibility.
- Prepare a condition report for the key structures including the silos, stables, well and other features, that specifies appropriate conservation works. Stabilise remaining fabric to prevent further deterioration and diminishing of cultural significance.
- Preserve all remaining timber fence posts and building posts.

- Prepare a detailed topographical survey of the Farm that shows all features including vegetation, buildings extant fabric and areas of archaeological remains.
- Prepare a detailed historical archaeological survey and photographic record.

Policies: The quarry precinct, sewerage treatment plant precinct and challenge course precinct

- The fabric of the OTU obstacle course and challenge courses will be kept clear of vegetation and maintained.
- The sewage treatment works and its associated features will be conserved.
- The archaeological significance of the sandstone quarry will be interpreted.

Actions:

- Stabilise, conserve and interpret the fabric of the OTU obstacle course and challenge course.
- Undertake regular vegetation management at the challenge and obstacle courses.
- Undertake further research on the history and significance of the sewerage treatment works.
- Interpret the archaeological significance of the sandstone quarry.
- Consider reconstructing all or some of the obstacle of challenge courses to improve interpretive opportunities.

Policies: Historical Archaeology

- NPWS will encourage historical research, survey and recording of archaeological resource within Scheyville National Park.
- Historical archaeology will be included as an integral part of interpreting the Park's heritage values. NPWS will use historical archaeological features and fabric to demonstrate the important history of non-indigenous occupation and use of Scheyville National Park. NPWS will ensure that sites and relics are adequately protected and secured prior to signing or opening up areas to visitation.
- Unless otherwise stated in site-specific management actions, historical archaeological sites and relics will be passively managed to allow them to age naturally.
- No excavation or sub-ground works will be undertaken within a 50 metre radius of any known historical archaeological sites, features or relics within Scheyville National Park (known items are shown on Figure 6.1).
- No excavation or sub-ground works will be undertaken within the Farm area without a detailed historical archaeological impact assessment.
- Any maintenance activities or new works will be undertaken in ways that minimise disturbance to archaeological sites.
- If during any excavation for new works or maintenance archaeological sites are revealed, work must cease and the site inspected by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

Actions

- Undertake a programme of integrated weed management and fuel removal of the grassland / woodland surrounding archaeological sites.
- Prepare a comprehensive Archaeological Management plan for Scheyville National Park to incorporate new research and provide material for interpretation.
- Prepare an interpretation plan for the industrial and historical archaeology.
- Ensure Fire Management Plans show extent of archaeological remains

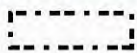
Policies: Aboriginal Heritage

- All decisions about management and interpretation of Aboriginal heritage will be made in consultation with the local Aboriginal community. NPWS will consult with the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation and the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation regarding management and interpretation of Aboriginal heritage.

- All Aboriginal cultural heritage work is to be undertaken by suitably qualified personnel and is to comply with the current guidelines specified by the NSW NPWS.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values and associations within Scheyville National Park will be appropriately interpreted and promoted. The Aboriginal heritage of the national park and nature reserve will be interpreted in park information however, due to the fragility of the Aboriginal sites on the national park, site locations will not be publicised.
- No Aboriginal sites will be sign posted, nor will any information produced by NPWS (including maps, pamphlets, tour information etc) identify the locations of Aboriginal sites to the public.
- Aboriginal heritage will be included as an integral part of interpreting the history of Scheyville National Park. NPWS will include the history of Aboriginal use and occupation, contact history and dispossession in all interpretation material produced about the Park.
- No excavation or sub-ground works will be undertaken within a 50 metre radius of any known Aboriginal site within Scheyville National Park. (See Figure 110 for zones of sensitivity and site locations). It is an offence under *Section 90* of the *NPWS Act 1974* to disturb, damage or deface an Aboriginal site or object.
- Maintenance operations involving significant ground disturbance will include an assessment of the requirement for a cultural heritage impact assessment, and where considered necessary, the implementation of assessment, prior to the commencement of works.

Actions:

- An Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will be required for any future development proposals where land surface disturbance is anticipated. To make this assessment, reference will be made to the identified zones of archaeological sensitivity which indicate the likely surviving archaeological resource within the area. In areas that do not contain landforms with archaeological potential detailed assessment may not be required. (figure 111)



Zone of archaeological sensitivity - Aboriginal

Figure 110

Policies: Movable Heritage

- Movable heritage will be managed in accordance with the DECC Moveable Heritage Policy.
- NPWS will appropriately catalogue / store / display any movable heritage relating to the various periods.
- All elements of fabric that are removed will be recorded and documented prior to appropriate disposal or storage. All photographs will be catalogued and made easily accessible.
- Building material samples may be taken during conservation works in instances where they may be required to use as templates for missing elements, where they are themselves significant or where they may have future use in displays or educational activities.
- Building material samples that are retained are to be adequately stored in secure, dry and vermin proof conditions on site in the administration building or other secure, designated location. They are to be appropriately bagged and labelled.
- Samples of building materials that may from time to time be collected may be disposed of under the following conditions:
 - they are not required for the purposes of replication or reproduction
 - all relevant information has been recorded prior to disposal (eg type of timber if a joinery item, profile, location where found/located etc)
 - they are not likely to be useful in interpretation or in educational contexts.

Actions

- Prepare an inventory of the existing Scheyville collection of moveable heritage.
- Appropriately catalogue / store / display moveable heritage associated with the site

6.8 Maintenance

Aim to ensure the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place

Policies

- Maintenance of the fabric and setting is to be undertaken on a cyclical basis in order to reduce failures and maintain an adequate level of functionality.
- All work undertaken must not affect the assessed significance of the site and must comply with the guidelines set in the Burra Charter and the NPWS Heritage Manual.
- All maintenance and conservation work will be carried out by tradespeople familiar with the requirements and techniques of conservation work.
- All work to be guided by a detailed manual for the maintenance, conservation and repair of steel, corrugated iron, timber and other common on site materials, which can be understood by field workers and which adopt sound technical practice as per expert advice. The manual should form part of any contract of use/lease.
- Materials which have never been painted or intended for painting (eg external or internal brickwork) will remain unpainted.
- All work must be done in compliance with the relevant trade specifications and in accordance with current occupational health and safety laws.
- All insurances that are relevant to such projects must be identified and put in place before work can commence such as Public Liability and Work Cover policies.
- Implement BCA or other relevant regulatory codes if required without compromising the assessed significance of the site.

Actions

- Undertake a series of staged detailed dilapidation reports, prepared by persons experienced in conservation of historic buildings, prior to any further conservation works and in accordance with the implementation strategies outlined in this CMP.
- Engage a structural engineer to carry out an inspection of buildings and other structures to determine the structural stability of piers, primary structures and the roof members prior to any adaptive re-use.

- Prepare a detailed manual for the maintenance, conservation and repair of steel, corrugated iron, timber and other common on site materials.
- All internal timber flooring elements will be repaired / conserved.
- Paint, apply preservative or cover all timber areas exposed to harmful elements and conditions. Original paint colours will be determined and repainted on next painting cycle. Wallpaper, tiles, floor and profile finishes will be determined and significant elements recorded.
- All missing downpipes and stack vents to be replaced in order to prevent further damage to the fabric of the buildings.
- Blocked weep holes in exterior walls must be cleared and all ventilation openings to be inspected and cleared as deemed necessary.
- All handrails and steps to veranda's and walkways will be repaired / conserved.
- Record all remaining kitchen fixtures and fittings.
- Rainwater will be collected from roofs and discharged in a way that does not damage the setting. Surface water will be directed away from the buildings.
- Investigate and install original style gutters and downpipes on next cyclic replacement.
- Investigate reinstatement of rainwater tanks to Quadrangle buildings.
- Windows and doors will be repaired and fittings made functional if the building is to be made functional. If the building is to be unoccupied the doors and windows must be made secure.
- Check for hazardous materials on site and building structures, particularly if access or use of the buildings is contemplated. The site has large quantities of lead paint and this problem must be considered and addressed if the buildings are to be open to the public. Address any contamination on the site accordance with the NSW Contaminated Lands Management Act 1998.
- Prohibit public access to buildings with potential hazards, a security fence must be erected to prevent unauthorised access.

6.9 Management

Aims: To provide guidance on site access and security
To provide for the adequate storage and management of Scheyville resource collections.

Policies: Access

- Access for motor vehicles will be through the existing entrances and speed limits will be controlled.
- An appropriate level of disabled access to the site will be provided. Any new works to enable disabled access, such as ramps, should be in accordance with the Burra Charter and any other relevant standards and be designed and sited for minimal impact on the cultural significance of the fabric.
- Former roads and tracks associated with the farm will be mown at regular intervals so that they remain visible and useable to visitors. Preference will be given to the maintenance of these tracks rather than the creation of new ones.
- Cycling will be permitted along the mown tracks, but will be regulated by a code of conduct shown on signage at the entrances. Cycling will not be permissible off the tracks and within close proximity of archaeological sites. Bicycle racks will be provided in suitable locations.
- Improved public transport access to the site will be encouraged.

Actions

- NPWS to liaise with State Transit Authority and Hawkesbury City Council to encourage the use of public transport to the site and to improve the frequency and flexibility of services.
- Investigate the provision of disabled access.
- Prepare a code of conduct for cyclists.
- Provide bicycle racks in suitable locations as demand requires.

- Restrict parking on main view corridors such as the ridge road between the Farm Manager's House and the Ancillary Buildings. Provide car parking in more visually discreet areas of the Park such as the former OTU officers car park.

Policies: Site security

- Continue to provide security to the site and ensure that any risks to visitors, staff or contractors are appropriately managed.

Actions

- Continue to provide manager accommodation with surveillance, night lighting, detectors etc to reduce risk of vandalism.
- Boundary fences and entrance gates will be maintained to prevent unauthorised access, vandalism and rubbish dumping.
- Elements on site such as wells, water tanks and other hazards are to be appropriately secured to prevent risk of public injury.
- The former Farm Manager's House, double and single silos are to be appropriately secured to prevent vandalism and the removal or destruction of remaining fabric.
- A risk management plan is to be developed to respond to increased community access issues and public liability concerns.

Policies: research and resource collections

- Records of all changes to, and maintenance of, buildings will be maintained on site on file or as part of an assets maintenance system. No materials will be disposed of unless professionally assessed at the end of the project contract.
- Representative examples of significant, floor, wall, ceiling and roof fabric will be preserved in-situ wherever possible.
- A photographic record will be made before, during and following any investigative, demolition or conservation works on the fabric. Records of all works documentation and contracts will be maintained on site. Archival records will be in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guidelines for this material.
- An inventory of research materials and sources that expands the bibliography of this CMP and is held by NPWS at Scheyville and within the Cultural Heritage division will be prepared. Consider making this information available on the web site for Scheyville National Park.
- The oral history programme will continue to be developed and will be recognised as a key resource in understanding the more recent phases of occupation at Scheyville National Park.

Actions

- Prepare an inventory of research materials and sources.
- Liaise with the Mitchell Library regarding the production of a facsimile of The Government Training Farm by W.F. Schey (1912) to be held at NPWS at Scheyville and available for public viewing. Consider making this publication available on the web site for Scheyville National Park.
- Liaise with State Records NSW at Kingswood regarding the conservation and inventory of Ministry of Labour correspondence 1926-1940, critical to the understanding the Government Agricultural Training Farm.
- Undertake further research and record the associations and personal histories of individuals and groups associated with the Place in accordance with recommendations made in the oral history reports.
- Undertake further research and investigation of the site's historic and Aboriginal archaeological resources.
- Undertake comparative research of the key farming establishments during the era of Pitt Town Village Settlement (The Co-operative Farm) and the Government Agricultural Training Farm (Dreadnought Farm).

- Undertake further research into the Post Second World War use of the Farm era particularly during the Military and Migrant era (1940-1976).

6.10 Future use and development of the site

Aim: To encourage community and educational activities whilst ensuring that the site's heritage values are conserved.

Policies

- Adaptive re-use of buildings should be permitted where the new use will not have an adverse impact on the retention of cultural significance.
- If the buildings are to be occupied they must be provided with adequate space and facilities for personal hygiene, laundry, food preparation, ventilation, heating and lighting. This should be done without adversely impacting the fabric and assessed significance of the place.
- Permit new construction within the site area only where it does not reduce the significance of the place, has a low visual impact on the setting and preserves significant landscape elements.
- New structures may be erected over existing building platforms or slabs provided that new work is interpreted and reflects the form, scale and where feasible, function of the original buildings (for example new ablutions blocks on site of old ablution blocks).
- Any new public facilities such as toilet blocks, picnic tables, benches and directional signage will be sited and designed to minimise impacts on the setting and important view corridors.
- Any changes required for adaptive uses will not alter the original external form of the buildings.
- Any internal alterations will retain the internal volumes and ceiling forms and will preferably be supported independently of the external fabric.
- Existing doors / doorway openings will be retained or reinstated if required for adaptive re-use and/or interpretation. New openings should generally not be introduced.

Use of the Farm Precinct

- Appropriate future uses for the farm are passive recreation and interpretation activities that do not diminish the cultural significance or threaten the significant fabric including fence lines and above and below ground archaeology.
- Permissible recreational uses should include walking, picnicking, photography, guided tours but may also include cycling in nominated areas.
- The current network of mown paths around the former paddocks leading to key sites of significance may be expanded to include old pathways, roads and routes uncovered recently by bushfire. The surface materials of tracks will remain as mown grass or as an informal surface that is visually discreet. New mown paths may be created to provide access to areas of heritage significance for interpretive or management purposes where required.
- Appropriate site facilities such as seating, picnic furniture and directional / interpretive signage and shelters may be provided in the farm area in the existing or new locations. Interpretive signage will not be allowed to proliferate in the farm area.
- The former Farm Manager's Cottage should continue to be used for accommodation or office functions

Actions

- *Expand the current network of mown paths around the former paddocks to provide clearer access to the former vegetable garden, former orchards and the ruins of the barn.*

Uses of the Building Precinct

- Preferred future uses for the buildings should meet the following criteria:
 - Uses with low impacts on significant building fabric enabling the retention of the Quadrangle building forms, external elements, courtyard and significant fabric;
 - Uses compatible with earlier Quadrangle functions (administration, short-term accommodation, and communal uses).
 - Use as an exhibition and interpretation space for the Quadrangle and Huts, particularly for visitors with associations with the place.
 - Uses that may provide income to fund ongoing conservation, maintenance and administrative costs.
- Any adaptive reuse should retain the previous Dining Block's communal functions and facilities and associational features.
- The current use of the Quadrangle Administrative Block as the NPWS PWD Cumberland North Area Office will be continued.
- The re-use of the old dormitory wings as a short stay residential facility for groups such as school / tertiary students, will be investigated.
- Encourage the uses of the SSAR huts for educational and/ or social/community purposes. Any new use will be complementary to other park activities and consistent with the Plan of Management.
- Any new use or building work will conserve the external appearance and distinctive internal volumes of the SSAR huts.
- Ensure the future uses of the SSAR huts reflect and retain their historical, social and scientific significance while also allowing for economic feasibility.
- Communal dining and recreational areas may be provided in the SSAR huts to complement any accommodation use of quadrangle buildings in accordance with their original use.
- Other compatible uses such as performance venue, function centre, exhibition hall, museum, weekend markets, craft fairs etc.) will be considered where they provide an opportunity to promote and interpret the site.
- Allow flexibility in the uses and changes to the kitchens. Reconfigure kitchens and cool rooms if required for modern uses but also allow for purposes other than as kitchens provided that significant elements are conserved (refer to Appendix 1). Allow the introduction of new kitchen fit-out to comply with current health regulations if necessary, guided by advice from appropriate heritage experts.

Actions

- Identify compatible and feasible adaptive re-use options for the Quadrangle buildings.
- Investigate re-use as a short stay residential facility for groups such as school / tertiary students
- Identify compatible and feasible adaptive re-use options for the SSAR Huts.
- Continue current program of conservation works with weatherproofing and security being top priorities.

6.11 Interpretation

Aims: To develop appropriate interpretive and educational materials for the cultural and natural heritage values of Scheyville National Park
To work in partnership with other agencies and groups to improve the visitor experiences available at Scheyville.

Policies

- An integrated interpretation approach will be taken to Scheyville National Park encouraging the interpretation of all phases of history and all significant values at the place.
- Interpretation will use a range of appropriate media and will avoid a proliferation of signage occurring on the site. The social history and fabric of Scheyville National Park will be interpreted to visitors and to those with associations with the place through web based materials tours, temporary exhibitions, brochures and displays.
- Historic photographs used in on-site displays will be correctly oriented and located in approximately the same position as the original photograph was taken.
- Interpretative signs may be placed on selected slabs to aid identification of the camp area.
- PWD will consult with local primary and secondary education authorities, relevant tertiary colleges and universities and other institutions to promote the development of the educational opportunities of Scheyville National Park.
- NPWS will participate in the Northwest Partnership in Heritage Management and Interpretation with a view to developing Scheyville national Park as a key site in this initiative.
- NPWS will Consult with relevant tourism organisations with a view to exploring cooperative marketing opportunities with other related venues.
- NPWS will co-operate with the Deerubin Local Aboriginal Council in interpreting the Aboriginal associations and values of the site.

Actions

- Key themes and locations for interpretation include:
 - early agricultural ventures and training in the farm area and associated orchards.
 - immigration from the dreadnoughts through to the migrant camp.
 - Officer Training Unit phase in the huts and quadrangle and obstacle and challenge courses.
- Critical areas for on-site interpretation are the more recent phases of the site history such as the migrant and OTU phases. These phases are best interpreted in the hut and quadrangle areas using a mixture of oral testimony, contemporary photographs and static displays. Ultimately an on-line database of the thousands of past residents at Scheyville would be a valuable resource that visitors could access to search for their own records or family members.
- A series of self guided themed interpretive walks should be developed with signage at key sites in addition to downloadable tour information.
- Permanent and movable exhibitions and displays of research material and historic photographs should continue be developed.
- Consideration should be given to establishing an on-site resource and research centre for students of the natural and cultural history of Scheyville associated with the administration building.
- Additional website and printed information interpreting Scheyville National Park should be prepared and made available to the public.
- Damaged and faded outdoor interpretive signs will be removed.
- Future outdoor interpretive signage will be of a more durable and weather- resistant design and materials than is existing.

6.12 Adoption and Review

Policies

- The conservation policies outlined in this Conservation Management Plan will be adopted by all relevant parties as the basis for all future work at the place.
- Where new work or further research reveals additional information regarding the significance of the place these policies may need to be reviewed
- The conservation policy should be reviewed whenever works (other than routine maintenance) to significant fabric are proposed or at five year intervals or under changing circumstances concurrent with Scheyville National Park Plan of Management review cycle.
- Any future review should reflect changes in conservation thought and practice, organisational and legislative change, and any new opportunities arising from the population growth of the region.
- Copies of previous and revised studies should be deposited with the NPWS Cultural Heritage Division, Local Council library and other appropriate repository.

Action

- This plan will be reviewed in five years from endorsement.

7 Five year works program for heritage and infrastructure, Scheyville National Park

Priority	Project	Comment
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: WATER		
Immediate	Resleeve ring mains	
As required	Reticulation	
Short term	Sewer: valve replacement on STP	
Short term	Sewerage mains: CCT	
Short term	Stormwater : clean out through camp and introduce grates, clean sumps	
Long term/optional	Water storage and collection; guttering and gutter guards	Investigate water storage, guttering etc
As required	Pan to sewer connection	
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: POWER		
Short term	Electricity connection to East SAAR hut	
Medium term	Electricity connection to West SAAR hut	
As required	Electricity connection to small SAAR huts	
Medium term	Outdoor lighting and interpretive lighting: exterior of SAAR huts and pathways	Consider preparing interpretive lighting strategy
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: PATHS AND ROADS		
Immediate	Pot hole and road repairs for main access and camp roads	
Short term	Build ramp approaches for camp bridges and footbridge	Engineering advice required
	Path repairs	Investigate reinstatement or closure of old path ways
INFRASTRUCTURE: SECURITY		
Medium term	Investigate and establish appropriate security in Camp precinct	Will probably need services of security consultant to look at alarms, lighting, patrols etc
Medium term	Investigate fire protection measures	
HERITAGE: ARCHAEOLOGY		
Immediate	Investigate stability of stable remains	
Short term	Stabilise roof on silo	
Immediate	Boilers: make safe	Secure moving parts, remove loose asbestos, secure chimney stacks
Medium term	Boilers: provide covering structure for protection	Investigate reinstatement of boiler house or design of new roof covering.
Immediate	Remove burnt out kitchen	
Short term	Secure squash courts	
Long term	Challenge course: investigate partial reconstruction	
HERITAGE: EAST SAAR HUT		
Short term	East SAAR hut: close end	Completion Year 1-2
As required	Repair timber floor	Completion Year 1-2
As required	Repair internal linings	Completion Year 1-2
HERITAGE: WEST SAAR HUT		
Short term	Timber repairs	Completion Year 1-2
Short term	External cladding	Completion Year 1-2
Short term	Louvre window repairs	Completion Year 1-2

As required	Internal patching	
HERITAGE: OFFICERS MESS		
Medium term	Officers Mess: repairs to ceilings and walls	Completion year 2-3
Medium term	Repair to floor coverings	Completion year 2-3
Medium term	Repainting	Completion year 2-3
HERITAGE: ADMINISTRATION BLOCK		
Long term	Joinery repairs	Commencement year 5?
Long term	Repainting	Commencement year 5?
Long term	Vacate for alternate on-site accommodation	
HERITAGE: FARM MANAGERS		
Long term	Roof and gutter repairs	Commencement year 5
Long term	Removal of fibro	Commencement year 5
Long term	Timber repairs	Commencement year 5
Long term	Removal of unsympathetic additions	Commencement year 5
HERITAGE: INTERPRETATION		
Short term	Repair and repaint small SAAR hut	
Short term	Design and install time line and small exhibit in small SAAR hut	
Immediate	Prepare interpretation plan. Design and install two entrance orientation/information boards	
ADAPTATION WORKS		
Medium term	New kitchen and bathroom officers mess	Investigate domestic scale fit out suitable for food heating and simple preparation.
Short term	Small SAAR hut: NPWS reception and interpretation	Suitable location for time line and introductory interpretation
Long term	Farm Managers: repairs and fit out for office accommodation if required	
Long term	Administration block: fit out for site administration and/or accommodation purposes	
Medium term	Dormitories: fit out for accommodation purposes	
Medium term	Consider new uses for annex area including temporary/permanent coverings for functions.	Once burnt out section demolished
Medium term	East SAAR hut food preparation fit out	

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SCHEYVILLE NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Volume 3

APPENDICES



March 2009

Prepared for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Climate Change



**NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service**



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Appendix 1 Maintenance Schedules

Quadrangle precinct	Date of Construction: 1929		Date of inspection: 16 May 2005			Quadrangle precinct
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	<p>This Precinct contains buildings No's 1-4 & No 51.</p> <p>Rendered masonry cavity walls, timber floors and roof structure clad with corrugated iron.</p>	<p>The external appearance of the complex has not changed significantly. The original open plan internal layout of the two dormitories has been changed to create a series of individual dormitories and the openings from the dormitories to the walkway have been infilled. The ground level within the quadrangle has risen significantly and is resulting in water flow and ponding under the buildings. It is probable that excessive water ingress and ponding is occurring under all of the quadrangle buildings. The installation of the bitumen roadway around the administration building at a level above the floor level is exacerbating this sub floor water situation. Rise in the ground level has created stormwater issues + inadequate gutters overflowing etc is causing excessive moisture under the buildings and providing a micro climate for termites.</p> <p>The former dining hall has been extensively remodelled, has suffered considerable damage from a fire, vandalism and water ingress.</p>	<p>There is termite damage evident in the recent architraves of the administration building as well as extensive termite damage to the floor and some of the roof/ceiling structure of the other quadrangle buildings. The roof cladding is rusting at the ridges, end and side laps and holes are visible through the roof sheeting in some locations. The ground level of the quadrangle and the bitumen roadway behind the administration building require immediate lowering to prevent unnecessary water ingress under the buildings. The air vents constructed to provide air flow below the floor of the dormitories need to be cleaned out and their level raised above the extant ground level to prevent the further inundation of water into the sub floor areas of the buildings with the air vents acting as drains. Consider lowering the ground level and installation of stormwater drainage.</p>	<p>A thorough and complete termite inspection of all buildings is required with an emphasis on the location and eradication of the nests. Lower the quadrangle ground level. Clean out all air vents to below concrete verandah slabs and raise the inlet level to ensure it does not form a drain for water ingress. Install surface drains. Consider scheduling the replacements of all of the roof cladding, gutters and downpipes. Increase the size of the gutters and downpipes and ensuring that all stormwater drains are working efficiently.</p>	1929	High

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Floor and skirtings	Timber boards generally covered with carpet in the administration building, linoleum in the dormitories and tiles in the wet areas and the kitchen areas of the dining hall. The dinning hall also had a timber parquetry floor.	Masonite and linoleum have been placed over some floors. The dinning hall also had a timber parquetry floor, ceramic tiles and linoleum.	Ranges from good to poor and dangerous.	Investigate further the entire floor structure and floor surfaces.	Some original and some replacement.	High for the original flooring and skirtings to moderate for the later infill
Walls	Cavity masonry walls, rendered externally and painted internally with Kalsomine painted finish	Later dormitory infill walls are timber framed now clad with plasterboard cladding and painted. Some new openings in the walls of the administration building. Possibly during the Officer training unit c 1965-1973, the walls of the dining rooms have been further skim coated with render up to the introduced picture rail level and some area were wallpapered.	The masonry wall structures are generally fair to good condition with some minor flaking paint, possibly caused by rising damp and falling damp due to water penetration through leaking roofs. Later timber walls to the dormitories are in a dilapidated and vandalised state. The general condition of the dining hall walls are fair to poor.	Check damp proof course for possible bridging. Remove flaking paint and repair wall surfaces prior to regular painting. Clean the sub floor vents to ensure maximum air flow.	Original exteriors walls with only minor infill and alteration. Internally all buildings have undergone considerably remodelling.	High for external, interior changes are dependant on significance of use analysis
Ceilings	Originally fibrous plaster most of the ceilings today are plasterboard painted. The dormitory shower and toilet fibrous plaster ceiling has been battened to provide a square grid pattern and is the most original ceiling. The dining hall has a metal ceiling in the kitchen area.	A high percentage of the ceilings have been replaced with plasterboard with coved cornices.	Generally fair to poor. Many of the ceilings within the dining hall have been extensively damaged by water penetration. Only the ceilings in the administration are in good condition.	Ensure that the buildings are watertight prior to any replacement of the ceilings. Unless significance dictates differently replace ceilings with like materials.	Mostly replacement	High for original fibrous plaster ceilings, Moderate for replacement ceilings.

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Doors and architraves	The main entrance double doors are/were 6 glass panel doors. Doors are mostly the original 6 panel timber doors with high mid rail, painted. The later dormitory doors are flush doors. The toilet and shower door are 6 panel doors with 4 glass(now missing but probably frosted glass panels) and 2 timber panels. Toilet cubicles are four panel doors with side haunched rails. All doors have a painted finish. Internal architraves are painted or stained timber.	Facing over some original doors, some doors and door hardware missing. Many have been vandalised to varying degrees. All glass panels to the door are either missing or broken. Architraves in various state of repair and a mix of differing profiles. The dining hall architraves and jambs have been replaced during the remodelling period and many of these have now been removed.	The majority of door jambs and architraves in the dining hall have been removed. Only one 6 panel door remains in the dining hall and only a few of the replacement door jambs and architraves remain. In the administration building the majority of the door and architraves are original but some of the replacement architraves have suffered termite damage. The dormitory external doors are a mix of original, original faced over and missing. The internal door have mostly been removed or vandalised. Some 6 panel door to the central sections remain and the toilet and cubicle doors remain but are in poor condition and or vandalised.	Expose original door or replace doors where missing, repair and repaint as necessary. Repair and or replace damaged or missing architraves and door jambs to the determined significant period.	Original doors were 6 panel timber doors, including the doors to the toilet and shower and toilet cubicles. The double entrance door (partially still extant) are also original.	high
Windows and architraves	Generally 12 pane double hung painted timber windows except for the shower and toilet windows which are 2 pane with the top pane fixed and the bottom operable sash generally containing 3 small obscured glass panes.	Most windows are original . Note some panes have patterned lower glass panes. Later windows have been installed in the verandah infill to the administration and dining hall.	The majority of the original external windows retain their original glass panes.	Make operational by checking sash cords and replace glazing panes where broken or missing	The majority of the windows are original and many retain their original glass panes	high
Inner Quadrangle verandahs	The main roof extends to cover the verandah. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital. Cement topping over	Cement topping to original slab, now painted.	Generally in fair to good condition. Timber post are deteriorating at the interface with the cement floor causing rotting of the base. Soffit linings generally in good condition except for areas where termite activity was sighted.	Check the roof cladding for leaks and the bases of the timber posts for rot. Repair and paint.	Mostly original materials although a couple of the verandah posts have been	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
	original concrete slab to the inner quadrangle verandahs.				replaced with inferior timbers.	
Outer quadrangle verandahs	The main roof extends to cover the verandah. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital, timber structure and flooring	Some of the timber floor boards have been removed. The floor boarding had been cut back at the extremities of the verandah and inferior timbers installed. Some termite damage evident, particularly in the northern dormitory (building No 3). Unsympathetic appearance of holes cut into the masonry sub walling to increase sub floor ventilation.	Generally poor with extensive termite damage & dry rot evident within the floor structure and flooring. Visual evidence of the storm water flowing under the floor of Dormitory No 3. The base of the balustrade posts are beginning to rot. Some of the verandah soffit lining v jointed boards have extensive termite damage and rot.	The sub floor stormwater flow should to be addressed prior to the repairs nominated below. Repair the sub floor ventilation and the verandah timbers (including some of the superstructure). All timbers need to be checked for termite or rot damage and repaired or replaced. Extend the floor structure to the original alignment. repair the roof structure and soffit lining boards.	The majority of the structure is original but in poor condition.	high
Eaves	V jointed timber boards, painted	nil	Generally good but some areas are in poor due to termites and rot.	Repair damaged sections and paint	Original	high
Gutters & downpipes	Pre finished colourbond quad guttering and rectangular downpipes.	Unsympathetic replacement with gutters which are too small and an insufficient number of downpipes. The choice of these materials is incompatible with the remainder of the roof. Unsympathetic replacement and new stormwater upstands constructed in PVC.	Generally sound but some gutters sagging and are full if leaves and debris. There is evidence of considerable back flow down the barge board. The overflow of the gutters is evidenced by the staining of the barge boards and erosion of the ground surfaces.	Remove leaf litter as a matter of urgency. Replace guttering with larger profiled galvanised quad gutter and circular downpipes at more regular spacing. Check that the stormwater pipes are working efficiently. Install vitreous clay upstands to the stormwater where required to match originals.	replacement c 1993	intrusive
Chimneys	Rendered and painted masonry	nil	Good	Regularly paint and reparge if necessary the top surfaces to maintain weather protection.	original	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Roof ventilators No 3 (1 on each dormitory and 1 on dining room)	Square timber turret with bellcast metal roof and decorative circular timber louvred ventilation openings.	nil	Fair but exposed timber requires regular repainting.	Prepare and paint all exposed timbers regularly. Check flashings and repair/ replace if necessary.	original	high
Roof cladding	Galvanised corrugated metal with barge rolls, ridge cappings and valleys.	It is probable that the roof sheeting has been replaced.	Generally fair to poor. Valley gutters and ridges are rusting as well as the roof sheeting at the gutter extremity and the laps are also rusting. Some roof fixings have rusted and light is visible through holes in some of the roof sheeting.	Inspect the roof areas from within the roof void to determine the full extent of deterioration. Where necessary replace roof sheeting with corrugated galvanised metal. Also replace the ridges, valleys and barges etc with galvanised materials.	Probably replacement.	Detailing and galvanised material high.
Covered walkway	Similar post & beam structure to verandah with curved roof clad with corrugated iron,	Original door openings to the walkway from the dormitories have been infilled so it now leads to a blank wall.	The structure is generally in fair condition however the roof sheeting is in poor condition. Poor detailing at the interface to the main roof is causing water damage and rotting of timber surfaces, (eaves and fascias)	Replace curved roof sheeting with corrugated galvanise metal and review the detailing of the interface of the curved roof to the main roof.	Mostly original	high
Fixtures	Fire extinguisher locations marked but extinguishers and hose reels missing.	N/A	N/A	Replace fire extinguishers and hosereels and ensure that they are in working order.	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div>Bld No 1 Administration</div> <div>Date of Construction: 1929</div> <div>Date of inspection: 16 May 2005</div> <div>Bld No 1 Administration</div>						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations, adaptation & maintenance	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Rendered masonry cavity walls, timber floors and roof structure clad with corrugated iron	The external appearance of the complex has not changed significantly other than the infill of the original verandahs either side of the arched entrance portico. The installation of the bitumen roadway around the administration building at a level above the floor level is allowing water to pond under the building and providing a micro climate for termites.	There is termite damage evident in the recent architraves of the administration building as well as extensive termite damage to the floor and some of the roof/ceiling structure of the other quadrangle buildings. The roof cladding is rusting at the ridges, end and side laps and holes are visible through the roof sheeting in some locations. The ground level of the quadrangle and the bitumen roadway behind the administration building require immediate lowering to prevent unnecessary water ingress under the buildings.	A thorough and complete termite re-inspection of is required with an emphasis on the location and eradication of the termite nests. Lower the bitumen level at the rear of the building.	1929	High
Floor and skirtings	Timber floor structure with timber boards generally covered with carpet but tiled in the wet areas.	Not able to be determined if new/ or repaired flooring us under the carpet and tiles.	Good	Investigate further the entire floor structure and floor surfaces.	Not able to be determined.	timber floor high as original flooring material
Skirtings	Timber profiled		Termite damage evident in some rooms	Monitor for further termite damage.	Possibly original	

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Walls	Cavity masonry walls, rendered externally and plastered and painted internally.	Some new openings in the walls of the administration building.	The masonry wall structures are generally in good condition with some minor flaking paint, possibly caused by dampness in the walls.	Check damp proof course for possible bridging. Remove flaking paint and repair wall surfaces prior to regular painting. Clean the sub floor vents to ensure maximum air flow.	Original exteriors walls with only minor infill and alteration. Internally this building has had some additional door openings constructed and a wall removed to create a larger work area for staff.	High for external, interior changes are dependant on significance of use analysis
Ceilings and cornice	A mix of plaster board replacement but mostly fibrous plaster, painted. The cornice are coved plaster, painted	Only some of the ceiling appear to have been replaced.	Good	check if air condition is leaking		
Doors and architraves	the doors are mostly original 6 panel timber doors with high mid rail, and profiled timber architraves, painted.	Original or replacement doors to match but with intrusive door hardware. A mix of original and replacement architraves.	Doors are in good condition but the replacement architraves have been attacked by termites.	Replace damaged architraves with an more appropriate timber species with a resistance to termites.	Original or replacement to match	High for original doors and architraves where able to be identified.
Windows and architraves	Generally 12 pane double hung timber windows with bullnosed profiled architraves, painted.	Most windows are original but with replacement architraves . Note some panes have patterned lower glass panes. Later windows have been installed in the verandah infill to the administration building.	Good with the majority of the original external windows retaining their original glass panes.	Continue to check for ongoing operation.	The majority of the windows are original and many retain their original glass panes. Architraves are replacement.	High

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Front verandahs	The original verandahs have been infilled with Masonry walls and 4 pane casement windows. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital, timber structure and flooring.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Infill materials are intrusive, original remnant structural elements high??
Eaves	V jointed timber boards, painted	nil	Generally good but some areas are in poor due to termites and rot.	Repair damaged sections and paint	Original	high
Gutters & downpipes	Pre finished colourbond quad guttering and rectangular downpipes.	Unsympathetic replacement with gutters which are too small and an insufficient number of downpipes. The choice of these materials is incompatible with the remainder of the roof. Unsympathetic replacement and new stormwater upstands constructed in PVC.	Generally sound but some gutters sagging and are full if leaves and debris. There is evidence of considerable back flow down the barge board. The overflow of the gutters is evidenced by the staining of the barge boards and erosion of the ground surfaces.	Remove leaf litter as a matter of urgency. Replace guttering with larger profiled galvanised quad gutter and circular downpipes at more regular spacing. Check that the stormwater pipes are working efficiently.	Replacement c1993	intrusive
Chimneys	Rendered and painted masonry	nil	Good	Regularly paint and reparge if necessary the top surface to maintain weather protection.	original	high
Roof cladding	Galvanised corrugated metal with barge rolls, ridge cappings and valleys.	It is probable that the roof sheeting has been replaced.	Generally fair to poor. Valley gutters and ridges are rusting as well as the roof sheeting at the gutter extremity and the laps are also rusting. Some roof fixings have rusted and light is visible through holes in some of the roof sheeting.	Inspect the roof areas from within the roof void to determine the full extent of deterioration. Where necessary replace roof sheeting with corrugated galvanised metal. Also replace the ridges, valleys and barges etc with galvanised materials.	Probably replaced.	Detailing and galvanised material high.
Light fittings	twin fluorescent	Replacement of original lights with twin fluorescent.	Good	N/A	Replacement c1993	

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Services	data, TV cable and electricity security all surface mounted, air conditioning through the ceiling		good	N/A	N/A	intrusively installed
Fire place	3 fireplaces, face brick hearth, timber surrounds and projecting timber mantle	possible reconstruction's	good	N/A	N/A	N/A
picture rails	timber profiled picture rails, painted	unusual projection over door openings, offset above windows and doors	good	N/A	new introduction(?) from military era	N/A
air conditioning	air conditioning is zoned and resulting in differential movement of the internal walls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div>Bld No 2 Southern Dormitory</div>						
	Date of Construction: 1929	Date of inspection: 16 May 2005				
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations, adaptation & maintenance	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Rendered masonry cavity walls, timber floors and roof structure clad with corrugated iron	The external appearance of the dormitory has not changed significantly. The original open plan internal layout has been changed to create a series of individual dormitories and the openings from the dormitory to the walkway has been infilled. The ground level within the quadrangle has risen significantly and is resulting in water flow and ponding under the buildings. The rise in the ground level has created stormwater issues with inadequate sized gutters resulting in overflowing etc is causing excessive moisture under the buildings and providing a micro climate for termites.	There is termite damage evident to the floor and some of the roof/ceiling structure of the dormitory. The roof cladding is rusting at the ridges, end and side laps and holes are visible through the roof sheeting in some locations. The ground level of the dormitory requires immediate lowering to prevent unnecessary water ingress under the building. The air vents constructed to provide air flow below the floor of the dormitory need to be cleaned out and their level raised above the extant ground level to prevent the further inundation of water into the sub floor areas of the building with the air vents acting as drains. Consider lowering the ground level and installation of stormwater drainage	A thorough and complete termite inspection of all buildings is required with an emphasis on the location and eradication of the nests. Lower the quadrangle ground level. Clean out all air vents to below concrete verandah slabs and raise the inlet level to ensure it does not form a drain for water ingress. Install surface drains. Consider scheduling the replacements of all of the roof cladding, gutters and downpipes. Increase the size of the gutters and downpipes and ensuring that all stormwater drains are working efficiently.	1929	High
Floor and skirtings	A timber floor structure with narrow timber boards, the dormitory rooms have been covered with linoleum. The skirtings were originally painted timber quad but with the construction of the	No change to internal flooring except to add later skirtings when the individual dormitories were created	Fair to poor	Investigate further the entire floor structure and floor surfaces.	Original flooring with later floor covering.	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
	dormitories a square rectangular timber was used.					
Walls	Cavity masonry walls, rendered externally and painted internally with Kalsomine painted finish. Inner dormitory walls are painted plaster board	Later dormitory infill walls are timber framed now clad with plasterboard cladding and painted.	The masonry wall structures are generally fair to good condition with some minor flaking paint, possibly caused by rising damp and falling damp due to water penetration through leaking roofs. Later timber walls and linings to the dormitory are in a dilapidated and vandalised state. Generally fair to poor.	Check damp proof course for possible bridging. Remove flaking paint and repair wall surfaces prior to regular painting. Depending on the significance agreed upon either remove or repair the dormitory infill.	Original exteriors walls with only minor infill and alteration. The dormitory is a later infill C ??	High for external, interior changes are dependant on significance of use analysis
Ceilings and cornice	Originally fibrous plaster most of the ceilings today are plasterboard painted. The dormitory shower and toilet fibrous plaster ceiling has been battened to provide a square grid pattern and is the most original ceiling.	A high percentage of the ceilings have been replaced with plasterboard with coved cornices.		Ensure that the buildings are watertight prior to any replacement of the ceilings. Unless significance dictates differently replace ceilings with like materials.	Mostly replacement	High for original fibrous plaster ceilings, Moderate for replacement ceilings.
Doors and architraves	Doors are mostly the original 6 panel timber doors with high mid rail, painted. The later dormitory doors are flush doors. The toilet and shower door are 6 panel doors with 4 glass(now missing but probably frosted glass panels) and 2 timber panels. Toilet cubicles are four panel doors with side haunched	Facing over some original doors, some doors and door hardware missing. Many have been vandalised to varying degrees. All glass panels to the door are either missing or broken. Architraves in various state of repair and a mix of differing profiles.	The dormitory external doors are a mix of original, original faced over and missing. The internal door have mostly been removed or vandalised. Some 6 panel door to the central sections remain and the toilet and cubicle doors remain but are in poor condition and or vandalised.	Expose original door or replace doors where missing, repair and repaint as necessary. Repair and or replace damaged or missing architraves and door jambs to the determined significant period.	Original doors were 6 panel timber doors, including the doors to the toilet and shower and toilet cubicles. The double entrance door (partially still	High

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
	rails. All doors have a painted finish. Internal architraves are painted or stained timber.				extant) are also original.	
Windows and architraves	Generally 12 pane double hung painted timber windows except for the shower and toilet windows which are 2 pane with the top pane fixed and the bottom operable sash generally containing 3 small obscured glass panes. Need something about the architraves	Most windows are original . Note some panes have patterned lower glass panes.	The majority of the original external windows retain their original glass panes.	Make operational by checking sash cords and replace glazing panes where broken or missing	The majority of the windows are original and many retain their original glass panes	High
Inner Quadrangle verandahs	The main roof extends to cover the verandah. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital. Cement topping over original concrete slab to the inner quadrangle verandahs.	Cement topping to original slab, now painted.	Generally in fair to good condition. Timber post are deteriorating at the interface with the cement floor causing rotting of the base. Soffit linings generally in good condition except for areas where termite activity was sighted.	Check the roof cladding for leaks and the bases of the timber posts for rot. Repair and paint.	Mostly original materials although a couple of the verandah posts have been replaced with inferior timbers.	High

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Outer quadrangle verandahs	The main roof extends to cover the verandah. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital, timber structure and flooring	Some of the timber floor boards have been removed. The floor boarding had been cut back at the extremities of the verandah and inferior timbers installed. Some termite damage evident, particularly in the northern dormitory (building No 3). Unsympathetic appearance of holes cut into the masonry sub walling to increase sub floor ventilation.	Generally poor with extensive termite damage & dry rot evident within the floor structure and flooring. Visual evidence of the storm water flowing under the floor of Dormitory No 3. The base of the balustrade posts are beginning to rot. Some of the verandah soffit lining v jointed boards have extensive termite damage and rot.	The sub floor stormwater flow should to be addressed prior to the repairs nominated below. Repair the sub floor ventilation and the verandah timbers (including some of the superstructure). All timbers need to be checked for termite or rot damage and repaired or replaced. Extend the floor structure to the original alignment. repair the roof structure and soffit lining boards.	The majority of the structure is original but in poor condition.	High
Eaves	V jointed timber boards, painted	nil	Generally good but some areas are in poor due to termites and rot.	Repair damaged sections and paint	Original	High
Gutters & downpipes	Pre finished colourbond quad guttering and rectangular downpipes.	Unsympathetic replacement with gutters which are too small and an insufficient number of downpipes. The choice of these materials is incompatible with the remainder of the roof. Unsympathetic replacement and new stormwater upstands constructed in PVC.	Generally sound but some gutters sagging and are full if leaves and debris. There is evidence of considerable back flow down the barge board. The overflow of the gutters is evidenced by the staining of the barge boards and erosion of the ground surfaces.	Remove leaf litter as a matter of urgency. Replace guttering with larger profiled galvanised quad gutter and circular downpipes at more regular spacing. Check that the stormwater pipes are working efficiently. Install vitreous clay upstands to the stormwater where required to match originals.	replacement c 1993	Intrusive
Chimneys	Rendered and painted masonry	nil	Good	Regularly paint and rearge if necessary the top surfaces to maintain weather protection.	original	high
Roof ventilator	Square timber turret with bellcast metal roof and decorative circular timber louvred ventilation openings.	nil	Fair but exposed timber requires regular repainting.	Prepare and paint all exposed timbers regularly. Check flashings and repair/ replace if necessary.	original	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Roof cladding	Galvanised corrugated metal with barge rolls, ridge cappings and valleys.	It is probable that the roof sheeting has been replaced.	Generally fair to poor. Valley gutters and ridges are rusting as well as the roof sheeting at the gutter extremity and the laps are also rusting. Some roof fixings have rusted and light is visible through holes in some of the roof sheeting.	Inspect the roof areas from within the roof void to determine the full extent of deterioration. Where necessary replace roof sheeting with corrugated galvanised metal. Also replace the ridges, valleys and barges etc with galvanised materials.	Probably replacement.	Detailing and galvanised material high.
Light fittings	Single pendant in dormitory with double fluorescent in hallway.	Replacement of original lights with twin fluorescent.	Good	Reinstate original light fittings and make operable.	Replacement c1993	N/A
Services	Other than water to the public toilet areas all services appear to have been disconnected.	Additional lighting services and probably power were installed when the individual dormitories were created.	N/A	Check original services for serviceability and repair or replace where necessary.	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No 3 Dormitory						
Date of Construction: 1926 Date of inspection 16 May 2005						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations, adaptation & maintenance	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Rendered masonry cavity walls, timber floors and roof structure clad with corrugated iron	The external appearance of the dormitories has not changed significantly. The original open plan internal layout has been changed to create a series of individual dormitories and the openings from the dormitory to the walkway has been infilled. The ground level within the quadrangle has risen significantly and is resulting in water flow and ponding under the buildings. The rise in the ground level has created stormwater issues with inadequate sized gutters resulting in overflowing etc is causing excessive moisture under the buildings and providing a micro climate for termites.	There is termite damage evident to the floor and some of the roof/ceiling structure of the dormitory. The roof cladding is rusting at the ridges, end and side laps and holes are visible through the roof sheeting in some locations. The ground level of the dormitory requires immediate lowering to prevent unnecessary water ingress under the building. The air vents constructed to provide air flow below the floor of the dormitory need to be cleaned out and their level raised above the extant ground level to prevent the further inundation of water into the sub floor areas of the building with the air vents acting as drains. Consider lowering the ground level and installation of stormwater drainage	A thorough and complete termite inspection of all buildings is required with an emphasis on the location and eradication of the nests. Lower the quadrangle ground level. Clean out all air vents to below concrete verandah slabs and raise the inlet level to ensure it does not form a drain for water ingress. Install surface drains. Consider scheduling the replacements of all of the roof cladding, gutters and downpipes. Increase the size of the gutters and downpipes and ensuring that all stormwater drains are working efficiently.	1929	High
Floor and skirtings	A timber floor structure with narrow timber boards, the dormitory rooms have been covered with linoleum. The skirtings were originally painted timber quad but with the construction of the	No change to internal flooring except to add later skirtings when the individual dormitories were created	Fair to poor	Investigate further the entire floor structure and floor surfaces.	Original flooring with later floor covering.	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
	dormitories a square rectangular timber was used.					
Walls	Cavity masonry walls, rendered externally and painted internally with Kalsomine painted finish. Inner dormitory walls are painted plaster board	Later dormitory infill walls are timber framed now clad with plasterboard cladding and painted.	The masonry wall structures are generally fair to good condition with some minor flaking paint, possibly caused by rising damp and falling damp due to water penetration through leaking roofs. Later timber walls and linings to the dormitory are in a dilapidated and vandalised state. Generally fair to poor.	Check damp proof course for possible bridging. Remove flaking paint and repair wall surfaces prior to regular painting. Depending on the significance agreed upon either remove or repair the dormitory infill.	Original exteriors walls with only minor infill and alteration. The dormitory is a later infill	High for external, interior changes are dependant on significance of use analysis
Ceilings and cornice	Originally fibrous plaster most of the ceilings today are plasterboard painted. The dormitory shower and toilet fibrous plaster ceiling has been battened to provide a square grid pattern and is the most original ceiling.	A high percentage of the ceilings have been replaced with plasterboard with coved cornices.		Ensure that the buildings are watertight prior to any replacement of the ceilings. Unless significance dictates differently replace ceilings with like materials.	Mostly replacement	High for original fibrous plaster ceilings, Moderate for replacement ceilings.
Doors and architraves	Doors are mostly the original 6 panel timber doors with high mid rail, painted. The later dormitory doors are flush doors. The toilet and shower door are 6 panel doors with 4 glass(now missing but probably frosted glass panels) and 2 timber panels. Toilet cubicles are four panel doors with side haunched	Facing over some original doors, some doors and door hardware missing. Many have been vandalised to varying degrees. All glass panels to the door are either missing or broken. Architraves in various state of repair and a mix of differing profiles.	The dormitory external doors are a mix of original, original faced over and missing. The internal door have mostly been removed or vandalised. Some 6 panel door to the central sections remain and the toilet and cubicle doors remain but are in poor condition and or vandalised.	Expose original door or replace doors where missing, repair and repaint as necessary. Repair and or replace damaged or missing architraves and door jambs to the determined significant period.	Original doors were 6 panel timber doors, including the doors to the toilet and shower and toilet cubicles. The double entrance door (partially still	High

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
	rails. All doors have a painted finish. Internal architraves are painted or stained timber.				extant) are also original.	
Windows and architraves	Generally 12 pane double hung painted timber windows except for the shower and toilet windows which are 2 pane with the top pane fixed and the bottom operable sash generally containing 3 small obscured glass panes .Need something about the architraves	Most windows are original . Note some panes have patterned lower glass panes.	The majority of the original external windows retain their original glass panes.	Make operational by checking sash cords and replace glazing panes where broken or missing	The majority of the windows are original and many retain their original glass panes	High
Inner Quadrangle verandahs	The main roof extends to cover the verandah. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital. Cement topping over original concrete slab to the inner quadrangle verandahs.	Cement topping to original slab, now painted.	Generally in fair to good condition. Timber post are deteriorating at the interface with the cement floor causing rotting of the base. Soffit linings generally in good condition except for areas where termite activity was sighted.	Check the roof cladding for leaks and the bases of the timber posts for rot. Repair and paint.	Mostly original materials although a couple of the verandah posts have been replaced with inferior timbers.	High

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Outer quadrangle verandahs	The main roof extends to cover the verandah. Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital, timber structure and flooring	Some of the timber floor boards have been removed. The floor boarding had been cut back at the extremities of the verandah and inferior timbers installed. Some termite damage evident, particularly in the northern dormitory (building No 3). Unsympathetic appearance of holes cut into the masonry sub walling to increase sub floor ventilation.	Generally poor with extensive termite damage & dry rot evident within the floor structure and flooring. Visual evidence of the storm water flowing under the floor of Dormitory No 3. The base of the balustrade posts are beginning to rot. Some of the verandah soffit lining v jointed boards have extensive termite damage and rot.	The sub floor stormwater flow should to be addressed prior to the repairs nominated below. Repair the sub floor ventilation and the verandah timbers (including some of the superstructure). All timbers need to be checked for termite or rot damage and repaired or replaced. Extend the floor structure to the original alignment. repair the roof structure and soffit lining boards.	The majority of the structure is original but in poor condition.	High
Eaves	V jointed timber boards, painted	nil	Generally good but some areas are in poor due to termites and rot.	Repair damaged sections and paint	Original	High
Gutters & downpipes	Pre finished colourbond quad guttering and rectangular downpipes.	Unsympathetic replacement with gutters which are too small and an insufficient number of downpipes. The choice of these materials is incompatible with the remainder of the roof. Unsympathetic replacement and new stormwater upstands constructed in PVC.	Generally sound but some gutters sagging and are full if leaves and debris. There is evidence of considerable back flow down the barge board. The overflow of the gutters is evidenced by the staining of the barge boards and erosion of the ground surfaces.	Remove leaf litter as a matter of urgency. Replace guttering with larger profiled galvanised quad gutter and circular downpipes at more regular spacing. Check that the stormwater pipes are working efficiently. Install vitreous clay upstands to the stormwater where required to match originals.	replacement c 1993	Intrusive
Chimneys	Rendered and painted masonry	nil	Good	Regularly paint and rearge if necessary the top surfaces to maintain weather protection.	original	high
Roof ventilator	Square timber turret with bellcast metal roof and decorative circular timber louvred ventilation openings.	nil	Fair but exposed timber requires regular repainting.	Prepare and paint all exposed timbers regularly. Check flashings and repair/ replace if necessary.	original	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Roof cladding	Galvanised corrugated metal with barge rolls, ridge cappings and valleys.	It is probable that the roof sheeting has been replaced.	Generally fair to poor. Valley gutters and ridges are rusting as well as the roof sheeting at the gutter extremity and the laps are also rusting. Some roof fixings have rusted and light is visible through holes in some of the roof sheeting.	Inspect the roof areas from within the roof void to determine the full extent of deterioration. Where necessary replace roof sheeting with corrugated galvanised metal. Also replace the ridges, valleys and barges etc with galvanised materials.	Probably replacement.	Detailing and galvanised material high.
Light fittings	Single pendant in dormitory with double fluorescent in hallway.	Replacement of original lights with twin fluorescent.	Good	Reinstate original light fittings and make operable.	Replacement c1993	N/A
Services	Other than water to the public toilet areas all services appear to have been disconnected.	Additional lighting services and probably power were installed when the individual dormitories were created.	N/A	Check original services for serviceability and repair or replace where necessary.	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div> <div>Bld No 4 Former Dining</div> <div> Date of Construction: 1929 Date of inspection: 16 May 2005 </div> </div>						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptations	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Rendered masonry cavity walls, timber floors and roof structure clad with corrugated iron. The rear portion has been extensively fire and water damaged. This building has undergone considerable adaptation and alteration to layout and finishes resulting in the significant loss of historic and original fabric.	The external appearance of this building has changed significantly with the infill of the verandah areas and the fire damage to the L shaped area to the rear of the building. Internally the former dining hall has been extensively remodelled, has suffered considerable damage from a fire, vandalism and water ingress.	Poor- the roof cladding is rusting at the ridges, end and side laps and holes are visible through the roof sheeting in some locations., furniture fittings and equipment have been previously vandalised and removed, replacement roof sheeting is zinalume is incompatible with galvanised roof sheeting.	Replace zinalume roof sheeting which is incompatible with galvanised roof sheeting. Consider scheduling the replacements of all of the roof cladding, gutters and downpipes. Increase the size of the gutters and downpipes and ensuring that all stormwater drains are working efficiently.	1929 but major modification to the entire interior of the building.	High externally but mostly intrusive internally.
Floors and skirtings	Mix of parquetry, timber boarding (some areas covered with masonite), small section with linoleum, and quarry tiles and ceramic tiles to kitchen & wet areas. Skirtings are timber quad, painted.	Require further detailed analysis.	Poor	Investigate further the entire floor structure and floor surfaces.	Require further detailed analysis.	High to intrusive
Walls	Cavity masonry walls, rendered externally and painted and wallpapered internally.	Possibly during the Officer training unit c 1965-1973, the walls of the dining rooms have been further skim coated with render up to the introduced picture rail level and some areas were wallpapered.	The masonry wall structures are generally fair to good condition with some minor flaking paint, possibly caused by rising damp and falling damp due to water penetration through leaking roofs. The general condition of the dining hall walls are fair to poor.	Depending on the level of significance and the use and interpretation agreed for this building unify finishes to an agreed period.	Original exteriors walls with only minor infill and alteration. Internally all buildings have undergone	High for external, interior changes are dependant on significance of use analysis

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
					considerably remodelling.	
Ceilings	Originally fibrous plaster most of the ceilings today are plasterboard painted. The dining hall has a metal ceiling in the kitchen area.	A high percentage of the ceilings have been replaced with plasterboard and with coved cornices.	Generally fair to poor. Many of the ceilings within the dining hall have been extensively damaged by water penetration and some have been vandalised.	Ensure that the buildings are watertight prior to any replacement of the ceilings. Unless significance dictates differently replace ceilings with like materials.	Mostly replacement	High for original fibrous plaster ceilings, Moderate for replacement ceilings.
Doors and architraves	The majority of door jambs and architraves in the dining hall have been removed. Only one 6 panel door remains in the dining hall and only a few of the replacement door jambs and architraves remain.	The dining hall architraves and jambs have been replaced during the remodelling period and many of these have now been removed.	N/a as mostly missing.	Replace like with like depending on the proposed use.	only 1 original door remains.	high
Windows and architraves	Generally 12 pane double hung painted timber windows with later replacement architraves.	Require further detailed analysis.	The majority of the original external windows retain their original glass panes.	Make operational by checking sash cords and replace glazing panes where broken or missing	The majority of the windows are original and many retain their original glass panes	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Verandahs	The original verandahs have been infilled with ?Masonry walls and 4 pane casement? windows? Soffit linings are v jointed boards supported on a timber beam and square timber posts with a profiled capital, timber structure and flooring. Check	Some of the timber floor boards have been removed. The floor boarding had been cut back at the extremities of the verandah and inferior timbers installed. Some termite damage evident, particularly in the northern dormitory (building No 3). Unsympathetic appearance of holes cut into the masonry sub walling to increase sub floor ventilation.	Generally poor with extensive termite damage & dry rot evident within the floor structure and flooring. Visual evidence of the storm water flowing under the floor of Dormitory No 3. The base of the balustrade posts are beginning to rot. Some of the verandah soffit lining v jointed boards have extensive termite damage and rot.	The sub floor stormwater flow should to be addressed prior to the repairs nominated below. Repair the sub floor ventilation and the verandah timbers (including some of the superstructure). All timbers need to be checked for termite or rot damage and repaired or replaced. Extend the floor structure to the original alignment. repair the roof structure and soffit lining boards.	The majority of the structure is original but in poor condition.	high
Eaves	V jointed timber boards, painted	nil	Generally good but some areas are in poor due to termites and rot.	Repair damaged sections and paint	Original	high
Gutters & downpipes	Pre finished colourbond quad guttering and rectangular downpipes.	Unsympathetic replacement with gutters which are too small and an insufficient number of downpipes. The choice of these materials is incompatible with the remainder of the roof. Unsympathetic replacement and new stormwater upstands constructed in PVC.	Generally sound but some gutters sagging and are full if leaves and debris. There is evidence of considerable back flow down the barge board. The overflow of the gutters is evidenced by the staining of the barge boards and erosion of the ground surfaces.	Remove leaf litter as a matter of urgency. Replace guttering with larger profiled galvanised quad gutter and circular downpipes at more regular spacing. Check that the stormwater pipes are working efficiently. Install vitreous clay upstands to the stormwater where required to match originals.	replacement c 1993	intrusive
Chimneys	Rendered and painted masonry	nil	Good	Regularly paint and reparge if necessary the top surfaces to maintain weather protection.	original	high
Roof ventilator	Square timber turret with bellcast metal roof and decorative circular timber louvred ventilation openings.	nil	Fair but exposed timber requires regular repainting.	Prepare and paint all exposed timbers regularly. Check flashings and repair/ replace if necessary.	original	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Roof cladding	Galvanised corrugated metal with barge rolls, ridge cappings and valleys.	It is probable that the roof sheeting has been replaced.	Generally fair to poor. Valley gutters and ridges are rusting as well as the roof sheeting at the gutter extremity and the laps are also rusting. Some roof fixings have rusted and light is visible through holes in some of the roof sheeting.	Inspect the roof areas from within the roof void to determine the full extent of deterioration. Where necessary replace roof sheeting with corrugated galvanised metal. Also replace the ridges, valleys and barges etc with galvanised materials.	Probably replacement.	Detailing and galvanised material high.
Light fittings	1 original hall fitting in ladies toilet, remnants of later lights	Require further detailed analysis.	Mostly missing	Replace like with like depending on the proposed use.	N/A	N/A
Services	all removed except for toilet area, and kitchen canopy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	intrusively installed
Fire place	Projecting hearth cement, painted, solid brick surrounds, remnants of timber mantle, 4 fire places, two in larger room faced with concrete bricks.	The two in larger room have been faced with concrete bricks, 1 infilled probably during the Military period.	Requires further assessment	N/A	Original but altered	N/A
picture rails	Non original but evidence of later rails now missing.	N/A	N/A as missing	N/A	new introduction?? from military era	N/A
Fixtures	1 remnant of a ceiling fan	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div> <div>Bld No 5</div> <div> <p>Date of Construction: Post 1931 possibly 1941 Noted as position of new store but not in exact location 45 -1965 Migrant era or later</p> <p>Date of inspection: 16 May 2005</p> </div> </div>						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Semi-circular steel framed Standard SSAR hut clad with corrugated iron sheeting and lined internally with masonite sheeting. An internal wall divides its length into two rooms.	Nil observed, unless relocated post 1941 if actually installed in accordance with the Commonwealth Dept of interiors Plan of 1941	Fair/Poor.	Repair the rusted structural frames where they are in direct contact with the ground. A stainless steel cooker has been placed outside the entrance and this is acting as a dam allowing water into the structure and accelerating the deterioration of the structure	c1945	high
Floor and skirtings	Concrete floor slab	N/A	Good		c1945	high
Walls	The side walls are formed with the semi-circular roof structure and clad externally with corrugated metal and internally with masonite. The straight end walls are timber framed and partially clad with horizontal timber boarding.	The northern end wall is completely missing.	Fair/poor. The unrestrained semi-circular north end is spreading at the base. Internally the masonite has buckled, suggesting roof leakage and probably rusting of the structure as well as the roof/wall claddings.	Re-structure and enclose the northern wall to secure the building. Assess the condition of the roof sheeting and steel structure and repair as necessary.	c1945	high
Ceilings	Masonite sheeting	N/A	Fair/poor. Extensively water damaged and buckled.	As above.	N/A	high
Doors and architraves	"V" jointed vertical timber within a perimeter framed double door at the southern end.	N/A	Fair	Repair the doors and paint.	N/A	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Windows and architraves	Timber framed louvred windows in banks of two and a group of six within the curved and straight end elevations.	Small unsympathetic dormer window penetrations along one elevation with aluminium framed window.	Fair.	Repair missing glass sections.	N/A	high
Eaves	N/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gutters & downpipes	N/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roof cladding	Curved corrugated iron sheeting. Straight roof awning over the southern door and windows.	N/A	Roof leakage evident from damage to the internal wall surfaces.	Inspect sheeting and repair/replace as necessary.		high
Light Fittings	evidence of a single row of light fittings	N/A	N/A	retain.	N/A	high
Fixtures		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services	Building used for storage of historic window fabric.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div> <div>Bld No 6</div> <div> Date of Construction: Post 1931 possibly 1941 Noted as position of new store but not in exact location 45 -1965 Migrant era or later </div> <div> Date of inspection: 16 May 2005 </div> </div>						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations, adaptation & maintenance	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Semi-circular steel framed Standard SSAR hut clad with corrugated iron sheeting and lined internally with masonite sheeting. An internal wall divides its length into two rooms.	Nil observed	Fair/Poor	Barricade to provide security.	C 1926 to 1931	high
Floor and skirtings	Concrete floor slab covered with lino & no skirtings	N/A	Fair	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walls	The side walls are formed with the semi-circular roof structure and clad externally with corrugated metal and internally with masonite.. The straight end walls are timber framed and partially clad with horizontal timber boarding externally and masonite internally	Timber weatherboards have been removed from the northern end wall leaving the framework and internal linings open to the weather.	Fair. Evidence of roof leakage from damage to internal linings	Assess condition of roof sheeting. Enclose the northern wall with weatherboards.	c1926 to 1931	high
Ceilings	Masonite sheeting	N/A	water damage evident	As above	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Doors and architraves	"V" jointed vertical timber within a perimeter framed double door at the southern end. A single door (now very deteriorated with some fabric missing) located at the northern end closest to the former dining hall.	N/A	Fair/Poor	Reconstruct the 6 paneled door. Repair and paint elsewhere.	c1926 to 1931	high
Windows and architraves	Timber framed louvred windows in banks of two and groups of six within the curved and straight end elevations.	N/A	Fair	Replace broken glass and paint..	c1926 to 1931	high
Eaves	Masonite at the dormer windows	N/A	Poor	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gutters & downpipes	nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roof cladding	Curved corrugated iron sheeting. Straight roof awning over the southern door and windows.	N/A	Roof leakage evident from damage to the internal wall surfaces.	Inspect sheeting and repair/replace as necessary.		high
Light Fittings	evidence of a double row of light fittings	Original fittings intact	Good/fair	retain.		high
Fixtures	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div>Bld No 7 West SSAR Hut</div>						
Date of Construction:	Date of inspection:					
1929	24 May 2005					
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptations	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Semi circular steel framed SSAR hut abutting a conventional building (former Kitchen) with a gabled roof. The SSAR hut portion is structured with a clear span and clad externally with corrugated metal sheeting and fully lined internally with masonite sheeting. The conventional building is timber framed and clad with horizontal timber boarding and corrugated metal roof sheeting. This building contains a series of smaller rooms within the former kitchen area to create cool rooms, pantry and preparation rooms etc	Conventional building built after and abutting the SSAR hut section. The SSAR hut former large dining area has been divided into rooms with a full height partition wall. The building retains the majority of its fittings and equipment. Side verandahs have been added during the OTU era.	Generally the SSAR hut portion is in fair to good condition, with repairs and maintenance of the roof claddings, flashings and reinstatement of the semi-circular external wall being undertaken during 2005. The former kitchen portion is in poor condition externally with nearly all of its wall claddings missing. Internally the wall and ceiling claddings are more intact but damaged. Some of the internal kitchen and coolroom equipment and services remain. The building can not be secured in its current state.	Secure the building against further vandalism.	1949	generally high
Floors and skirtings	The entire floor of the SSAR hut is a concrete slab laid in panels. The former kitchen area is tiled over a concrete slab and includes coving to the walls and floor plinths for former kitchen equipment.	The SSAR hut has been divided into two separate rooms during the officer training use period.	Fair.	N/A	1949	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Walls	The SSAR hut portion is steel framed and clad externally with horizontal metal sheeting. Internally the walls are completely lined with masonite. The former kitchen area is timber framed and lined internally with a range of flat lining materials. The former external cladding has been removed.	The external cladding has been removed from the former kitchen building section and skillion roof projections added to the SSAR hut portion on the eastern side. The wall cladding to these projections has been removed.	The perimeter concrete drain abutting the base of the walls is capturing moisture and rusting the cladding and possibly the framing (unsighted). Trees growing adjacent to the wall have been removed but the stumps remain along with the damage caused.	Review the detail of the perimeter drain and the wall junction to provide positive water shed. Remove the tree stumps adjacent to the building walls and where affected re grade or replace the perimeter drain. Re-clad the kitchen walls with rusticated weatherboard timbers, prime and paint.	1949	high
Ceilings	The ceiling of the SSAR hut is clad with masonite. This area has been painted. The former kitchen rooms are lined with painted flat sheeting.	Some ceiling areas have been removed.	Fair to good but paint finish is poor.	N/A	1949	high
Doors and architraves	Historically, the external doors were T&G boarded doors but only parts of the doors remain. Wider openings were French doors with timber panels.	Mostly vandalised and/or removed. A remnant double door is stored awaiting reinstatement during the 2005 work.	Fair	Barricade the door openings temporarily to secure the building.	Remnants of 1949	high
Windows and architraves	Mix of hopper and louvered windows in timber frames.	The original appears to be the louveres and the hopper windows have replaced these. Louvre glass is missing.	Fair to good.	Install missing glass panes and louveres to secure the building. Install barricades if required.	Louvres 1949, hopper windows c1965 1949	high
Eaves	Masonite painted to the former kitchen portion.		eaves linings are missing	N/A		high
Gutters & downpipes	The concrete drain at the base of the SSAR hut forms the function of the gutter. A conventional gutter was located along the eaves of the conventionally framed portion.	Gutters generally removed.	Refer to walls	Install guttering and downpipes. Maintain the concrete drain at the base of the SSAR hut wall and repair where tree roots have damaged them.	N/A	N/A

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Roof cladding	The SSAR huts are clad with curved corrugated metal and the gabled roofs are clad with straight corrugated metal sheeting.	N/A	Roof sheeting is probably rusting at the laps based on the observed condition of the adjoining SSAR hut.	Inspect the roof sheeting and de-rust, repair and/or replace as warranted to provide a complete waterproof roof. If replacement is warranted, undertake temporary repairs until replacement can be funded.	probably 1949	high
Light fittings	"Schoolhouse light fittings"(without the glass lens) exist within the SSAR hut areas. One other enamelled metal pendant lamp is located in the pantry.	N/A	Some fittings vandalised and others removed.	Install temporary lighting for security against further vandalism.	1949	high
Services	Kitchen equipment and piping, and refrigeration/coolroom equipment.	Mostly intact except for some kitchen equipment and fittings.	Equipment extant includes coolroom doors and hardware, refrigeration piping and fan coil units, timber pantry shelving, preparation bench with sink bowls, another stainless steel sink bench, position of cooking equipment and gas burner including an exhaust hood.	Retain, as part of the industrial archaeology and former use.	N/A	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div>Bld No 9 East SSAR Hut</div>						
Element	Date of Construction: 1929 Fabric & Finish	Date of inspection: 24 May 2005 Alterations and adaptations	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Semi circular steel framed SSAR hut abutting a conventional building (former Kitchen) with a gabled roof. The SSAR hut portion is structured with a clear span and clad externally with corrugated metal sheeting and partly lined internally with masonite sheeting. The conventional building is timber framed and clad with horizontal timber boarding and corrugated metal roof sheeting. This building contains a series of smaller rooms within the building envelope.	Conventional building built after and abutting the SSAR hut section.	Generally the SSAR hut portion is in fair condition, with repairs and maintenance of the roof claddings and flashings being undertaken during 2005. The timber floor is damaged from previous roof leakage and without doors the building can not be secured. The former kitchen portion is in poor condition with wall and ceiling claddings damaged and internal equipment removed.	Secure the building against further vandalism.	c1929	generally high
Floors and skirtings	The entire floor is a concrete slab with approximately 3/4 of the area over-sheeted with a timber floor finish. The remaining floor is either concrete slab as a finished floor or tiled. The former kitchen area includes coving to the walls and floor plinths for former kitchen equipment.	The southern end of the SSAR hut converted to a Gymnasium containing a timber floor surface. This remains today.	The former gymnasium timber floor has rotted in isolated positions where roof leaks were located.	Repair the timber floor surfaces once the roof sheeting has been repaired. Maintain the other tiled and concrete floor surfaces and repair/replace to satisfy future interpretation or adaptive reuse.	concrete floor original. Timber floor install for gymnasium c1965	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Walls	The SSAR hut portion is steel framed and clad externally with horizontal metal sheeting. Internally the walls are mostly lined with masonite up to the top of the windows. The former kitchen area is timber framed, clad externally with rusticated weatherboards and internally with a range of flat lining materials	N/A	The curved steel structure is rusting at the interface with the concrete slab and some locations have bowed outward.	Repair and de-rust the structure particularly at the steel channel at the wall base. Replace the missing strutting between the curved structural beams. Repair external timber rusticated boarding and replace where missing. Prime paint and finish coats.	1949 except later infill.	high
Ceilings	The ceiling of the SSAR hut is the exposed underside of the roof sheeting including the steel frame work. This area has been painted. The remainder of the SSAR hut and the adjacent rooms were lined with painted flat sheeting, but the majority of the surfaces have been removed.	Majority of the ceiling linings have been removed.	masonite and other flat ceiling linings have warped and suffered from water leakage.	N/A	N/A	high
Doors and architraves	Historically, the external doors were T&G boarded doors but only parts of the doors remain. Wider openings were French doors with timber panels.	Mostly vandalised and/or removed.	N/A	Barricade the door openings temporarily to secure the building.	Remnants of 1949	high
Windows and architraves	Mix of hopper and louvred windows in timber frames.	The original appears to be the louvres and the hopper windows have replaced these. Louvre glass is missing.	N/A	Install missing glass panes and louvres to secure the building. Install barricades if required.	Louvres 1949, hopper windows c1965	high
Eaves	Masonite painted to the former kitchen portion.		eaves linings are missing	N/A	1949	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Gutters & downpipes	The concrete drain at the base of the SSAR hut forms the function of the gutter. A conventional gutter was located along the eaves of the conventionally framed portion.	Gutters generally removed.	N/A	Install guttering and downpipes. Maintain the concrete drain at the base of the SSAR hut wall and repair where tree roots have damaged them.	N/A	N/A
Roof cladding	The SSAR huts are clad with curved corrugated metal and the gabled roofs are clad with straight corrugated metal sheeting.	N/A	Roof sheeting is rusted at the laps and at the junctions with the structure. Stormwater is seeping through the rusted locations causing general damage internally.	Inspect the roof sheeting and de-rust, repair and/or replace as warranted to provide a complete waterproof roof. If replacement is warranted, undertake temporary repairs until replacement can be funded.	probably 1949	high
Light fittings	only remnants of "schoolhouse light fittings" exist within the SSAR huts.	N/A	Vandalised and mostly removed except for the ceiling rose and some cabling battens.	Install temporary lighting for security against further vandalism.	N/A	high
Services	Kitchen equipment and piping.		All removed except for kitchen equipment piped services.			
Fixtures						

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No 41						
Date of Construction: c1949						
Date of inspection: 16 June 2005						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Timber framed former ablution blocks are constructed on a concrete slab and clad externally with corrugated metal sheets and internally with flat metal sheeting. Similar to Building No 47	nil	Internally this former ablution block appears to be in fair/good condition. The "L" shaped entrance screen walls are removed. Other vandalism has occurred to fittings internally. Externally the roof needs gutters and downpipes.	Remove rubbish internally and barricade the entrances. If gutters/downpipes are installed they would need regular cleaning of debris with the proximity of trees.	c1949-1965	N/A
Floor and skirtings	Concrete slab and coved skirtings as an integral part of the floor.	Original	poor	Remove rubbish and reinspect.	N/A	high
Walls	Hardwood timber framed clad with corrugated metal externally and flat metal sheeting internally.	Original	fair	N/A	N/A	high
Ceilings	Not noted.	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
Doors and architraves	Timber cubicle doors	N/A	fair	N/A	N/A	N/A
Windows and architraves	N/A Permanent ventilation openings through walls at high level.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eaves	N/A	N/A	fair	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gutters & downpipes	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roof cladding	Corrugated metal sheeting and metal capping	Original	fair	Repair cappings and make watertight.	N/A	high
Light fittings		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fixtures	Toilet pans, basins and shower heads	Original	Vandalised	Secure the building.	N/A	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No 47						
Date of Construction: c1949						
Date of inspection: 16 June 2005						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Timber framed former ablution blocks are constructed on a concrete slab and clad externally with corrugated iron sheets and internally with flat sheeting. Similar to Building No41 The roof cladding is missing.	nil	The roof cladding is missing causing general decay of fabric. Many of the toilet fittings have been vandalised, removed or broken. The roof cladding is totally missing	Assess the roof structure and install roof sheeting, cappings etc. asap. Secure the building.	c1949-1965	high
Floor and skirtings	Concrete slab and coved skirtings as an integral part of the floor.	Original	poor	Remove rubbish and reinspect.	N/A	high
Walls	Hardwood timber framed clad with corrugated metal externally and flat metal sheeting internally.	Original	fair	N/A	N/A	high
Ceilings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Doors and architraves	Timber cubicle doors.	N/A	fair	N/A	N/A	N/A
Windows and architraves	N/A Permanent ventilation openings through walls at high level.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eaves	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roof cladding	Probably corrugated metal sheeting.	N/A	missing	Install roof sheeting to protect interior finishes and fittings.		N/A
Light fittings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fixtures	Toilet pans, basins and shower heads	Original	Vandalised	Secure the building.	N/A	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No 56						
Element	Date of Construction: 1929 Fabric & Finish	Date of inspection: 16 June 2005 Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	This Standard SSAR hut was constructed in two stages, the earlier part being constructed of a steel 'I' framed semi-circular structure whilst the later part is constructed from a combination of semi-circular pipes and timber framework.(northern end).	Original section extended in length approx. 40%	Poor. The extension has been fire damaged.	Assess the roof condition and extent of termite activity.	Constructed in 2 stages	High
Floor and skirtings	concrete floor slab	Concrete floor extended.	Significant movement crack in the slab across the width of the floor as well as between the two parts.	N/A		
Walls	Steel "I" section and steel pipe/timber framed walls clad externally with corrugated metal and internally clad with masonite	The extension has been altered internally with timber framed dividing walls to provide smaller rooms and possibly used as a residence.	Termite activity noted.	As above		
Doors and architraves	The original building portion contains timber double doors in the straight end wall. The extension contains a single timber framed door opening within a projecting dormer structure	N/A	Doors difficult to open with building movement.	Ease for the opening operation		

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Windows and architraves	Windows are all located in the extension to the stricture and are louvred windows within timber dormer frames but are now barricaded. The original windows within the end wall are also barricaded.	N/A	Poor. Fire damaged and barricaded.			
Roof cladding and ventilators	Semi-circular corrugated sheeting. Only 1 of the former 4 vents remains intact, 2 vents are partially intact whilst one is completely missing.	Installation of roof ventilators.(probably when converted to a residence.)	Roof sheeting rusted at the laps and suspect roof leakage.	Assess the roof condition and replace sheeting as necessary.		
Fixtures	Kitchen sink cupboards	N/A	Poor	N/A	Not original	

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No 57a						
Element	Date of Construction: c1949	Date of inspection: 16 June 2005				
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Timber framed and clad rectangular building in a dilapidated state with some of the roof cladding missing	This building was formerly a U shaped structure but today only this rectangular portion of the former U remains	Dilapidated condition with extensive termite damage to structure and external cladding and rot caused by water penetration to the areas with no roof cladding or ceiling lining remaining.	Consider detailed recording then permit demolition.	c1929	
Floor and skirtings	Concrete floor	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Walls	Hardwood timber framed clad externally with rusticated timber weatherboards	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Ceilings	Masonite	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Doors and architraves	Timber framed doors are either broken or missing . Some openings are barricaded.	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Windows and architraves	Timber framed with glass panes now broken or missing . Some windows have been completely removed and the openings barricaded.	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Eaves	Lined with masonite	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Gutters & downpipes	Rusted and sagging	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Roof cladding	Corrugated sheeting with some sheets missing and others rusting	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Light fittings	No remaining evidence in accessed area	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Services	Disconnected?	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No 69						
Element	Date of Construction: post 1965 Fabric & Finish	Date of inspection: 16 June2005 Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	The squash court is a cavity brick structure rendered internally with a flat metal deck roof and an aluminium framed window and door creating an entrance porch with a projecting concrete roof. Vandals have broken most of the glass. The remains of three former bitumen tennis courts, one with lights are located beside the squash court. Services have been disconnected from the area.	Original	The roof appears to be weathertight but there are no downpipes to drain the water away from the area and only part of the fascia remains. Birds inhabit the building and vandalism is occurring.	Replace the broken glass or temporarily barricade the openings	c1965	high
Floor and skirtings	Timber floor boarding to squash court	Original	Fair	N/A	c1965	high
Walls	Stretcher bond face brickwork externally. Rendered brick internally.	Original	Good	Painting internally	c1965	high
Ceilings	Flat ceiling finish painted	Original	Good	Painting internally	c1965	high
Doors and architraves	Glass/aluminium framed door entrance unit. Internally doors are flush solid core, painted.	Original	Frame fair, glass broken.		c1965	high
Windows and architraves	Aluminium framed sliding sash windows	Original	Glazing mostly broken	Replace glass.	c1965	high
Gutters & downpipes	Rectangular fascia style gutter and rectangular	Original	Downpipes are missing	Install guttering and downpipes and connect to drainage system		

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
	downpipes.					
Roof cladding	Ribbed metal deck roofing	Original	Un sighted. No apparent roof leaks		c1965	high
Light fittings	Fluorescent with diffusers to squash court	Original	Not tested	Replace lamps and starters.	c1965	high
Staircase and Viewing Gallery	Steel framed staircase with timber treads and mesh wire balustrade to viewing area.	Original	Good	General maintenance.	c1965	high
Bld No H2 Former Managers residence Element	Date of Construction: 1897	Date of inspection: 16 June 2005				Bld No H2 Former Managers residence Fabric Significance
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptations	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Unoccupied Victorian timber framed and clad duplex residence. The early duplex residence supported on brick piers. The central hall provided access to two rooms on the western side with similar rooms on the other side access via the verandah. Two back to back fireplaces formed the original kitchen although these rooms have been extensively modified to create a large single room. The original residence has been extended to the rear (south) and is supported on timber stumps.	Timber additions to the rear of the building to create a large room with a modern kitchen and laundry. Bathrooms probably modernised at the same time c 1960's. The extension is timber framed with timber clad walls, corrugated metal roof and a timber floor. The addition together with other alterations has converted the building to a large residence.	Unoccupied and subject to minor vandalism.	Ensure roof cladding, guttering and downpipes are in good condition. Repair the stormwater system and prevent discharge adjacent to the building. Inspect the timber stumps and as necessary replace with masonry where wall and floor has sagged. Inspect for termite activity and take appropriate action.	c1897	high/extreme

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Floors and skirtings	timber floor structure and flooring supported on brick piers	Rear extension supported on timber stumps.	Some termite damage and rot to the rear extension is causing subsidence of one wall and adjacent floors.. Fair/good.	Inspect the floor structure and repair the failed floor structure. Replace the stumps with masonry piers and the timber structure "like with like" Remove vines and clear vegetation from face of walls and at the base of walls	c1897 and c1961	high
Walls	Timber framed and originally clad externally with rusticated weatherboards. Verandahs similarly clad.	The verandahs along the front elevation and partially along both sides have been infilled.			c1897 and c1961	high
Ceilings	Flat sheeting with cover battening	N/A	Fair	Painting and general maintenance.		
Doors and architraves	Original Victorian style French doors and highlight windows above. Profiled architraves. Later doors are flush doors with simple mouldings.	N/A	Good	N/A	c1897	high
Windows and architraves	Original Victorian timber double hung windows with projecting sills and nosings. Later windows similar in style.	N/A	Good	N/A	c1897	high
Verandahs	Located along the front and partially along the two side walls.	Verandahs infilled with timber weatherboards and windows.	Fair.	Painting and general maintenance.	N/A	medium
Eaves and verandah soffit	Flat sheeting with cover battening	N/A	Fair/good	Painting and general maintenance.	N/A	
Gutters & downpipes	Eaves quadrant gutter and ribbed rectangular downpipes.	Installation of unsympathetic guttering and ribbed rectangular downpipes.	Gutters and downpipes are rusted through and where still operating spill directly onto the ground providing a damp habitat for termite activity and dry rot of the timber.	Renew with quadrant guttering and circular downpipes and discharge into stormwater piping to discharge away from the building or preferably to the roadway kerb stormwater system. Ensure guttering is kept free of debris.	Replacement s.	intrusive
Chimneys	Brick with profiled coursing	N/A	Fair		c1897	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Roof cladding	Corrugated galvanised metal	N/A	N/A	Replace as required	N/A	high
Light fittings	Replacement fittings	N/A	Unsympathetic	Replace with simple pendant fittings	c1961	intrusive
Fire place	Brick with gas inserts	Moderately altered	Unsympathetic	Check gas operation periodically	c1897 and c1961	high
picture rails	Profiled timber	N/A	Fair / Good	Painting and general maintenance.		high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
<div> <div>Bld No H2 Former Managers residence</div> <div> Date of Construction: 1897 Date of inspection: 16 June 2005 </div> <div>Bld No H2 Former Managers residence</div> </div>						
Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptations	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Unoccupied Victorian timber framed and clad duplex residence. The early duplex residence supported on brick piers. The central hall provided access to two rooms on the western side with similar rooms on the other side access via the verandah. Two back to back fireplaces formed the original kitchen although these rooms have been extensively modified to create a large single room. The original residence has been extended to the rear (south) and is supported on timber stumps.	Timber additions to the rear of the building to create a large room with a modern kitchen and laundry. Bathrooms probably modernised at the same time c 1960's. The extension is timber framed with timber clad walls, corrugated metal roof and a timber floor. The addition together with other alterations has converted the building to a large residence.	Unoccupied and subject to minor vandalism.	Ensure roof cladding, guttering and downpipes are in good condition. Repair the stormwater system and prevent discharge adjacent to the building. Inspect the timber stumps and as necessary replace with masonry where wall and floor has sagged. Inspect for termite activity and take appropriate action.	c1897	high/extreme
Floors and skirtings	timber floor structure and flooring supported on brick piers	Rear extension supported on timber stumps.	Some termite damage and rot to the rear extension is causing subsidence of one wall and adjacent floors..	Inspect the floor structure and repair the failed floor structure. Replace the stumps with masonry piers and the timber structure "like with like"	c1897 and c1961	high
Walls	Timber framed and originally clad externally with rusticated weatherboards. Verandahs similarly clad.	The verandahs along the front elevation and partially along both sides have been infilled.	Fair/good.	Remove vines and clear vegetation from face of walls and at the base of walls	c1897 and c1961	high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Ceilings	Flat sheeting with cover battening	N/A	Fair	Painting and general maintenance.		
Doors and architraves	Original Victorian style French doors and highlight windows above. Profiled architraves. Later doors are flush doors with simple mouldings.	N/A	Good	N/A	c1897	high
Windows and architraves	Original Victorian timber double hung windows with projecting sills and nosings. Later windows similar in style.	N/A	Good	N/A	c1897	high
Verandahs	Located along the front and partially along the two side walls.	Verandahs infilled with timber weatherboards and windows.	Fair.	Painting and general maintenance.	N/A	medium
Eaves and verandah soffit	Flat sheeting with cover battening	N/A	Fair/good	Painting and general maintenance.	N/A	
Gutters & downpipes	Eaves quadrant gutter and ribbed rectangular downpipes.	Installation of unsympathetic guttering and ribbed rectangular downpipes.	Gutters and downpipes are rusted through and where still operating spill directly onto the ground providing a damp habitat for termite activity and dry rot of the timber.	Renew with quadrant guttering and circular downpipes and discharge into stormwater piping to discharge away from the building or preferably to the roadway kerb stormwater system. Ensure guttering is kept free of debris.	Replacement s.	intrusive
Chimneys	Brick with profiled coursing	N/A	Fair		c1897	high
Roof cladding	Corrugated galvanised metal	N/A	N/A	Replace as required	N/A	high
Light fittings	Replacement fittings	N/A	Unsympathetic	Replace with simple pendant fittings	c1961	intrusive
Fire place	Brick with gas inserts	Moderately altered	Unsympathetic	Check gas operation periodically	c1897 and c1961	high
picture rails	Profiled timber	N/A	Fair / Good	Painting and general maintenance.		high

Element	Fabric & Finish	Alterations and adaptation	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Bld No H1 Residence						
Element	Date of Construction: c1929 Fabric & Finish	Date of inspection: 16 June 2005 Alterations and adaptations	Condition /comments	Essential maintenance	Age/ Assessment of Originality	Fabric Significance
Generally	Rectangular timber framed and clad residence with high gabled construction. Viewed from the outside only	Mostly intact externally. Building not inspected internally. Unsympathetic awning over the front door	occupied and reported as in good condition internally by the current occupier	repainting of the external timber members and cladding.	c1929	high
Doors and architraves	Timber external door with top portion glazed, similar to windows.	Original	Good	General maintenance and painting.	c1929	high
Windows and architraves	Timber casement windows (side hinged) with rectangular architraves. Six pane sashes in multiples of two and three.	Original	Good	General maintenance and painting.	c1929	high
Verandah Awning	Steeply pitched rear verandah awning extends across the elevation. Timber framed.	?	Good	General maintenance and painting	?	medium
Eaves	Timber boarding with exposed roof battens.	Original	Good	General maintenance and painting	c1929	high
Gutters & downpipes	Quadrant guttering and rectangular downpipes.	Not original	Leaf debris evident. Circular downpipes more appropriate.	Ensure guttering is free of debris and discharges away from the building	Replace as required	high
Chimneys	Rectangular brick chimney	Original	Good	Maintain water shed of coping.	c1929	high
Roof cladding	Corrugated metal with metal barge roll and ridge capping.	N/A	Good	Check for rusting of the laps and leakage.	c1929	high

Appendix 2 Photographs

The following section provides a catalogue of historic images available from on-line databases of the following repositories:

- State Library of NSW
- State Records of NSW
- National Archives of Australia

2.1 The Dreadnought Scheme and the Government Training Farm, 1911 to 1939- Historic Photographs



6 horse plough team
State Library of NSW



Administration block, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Administrative building, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Bull
State Library of NSW



At the silo, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Milking sheds at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



The Avenue, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Blacksmith at work at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Boys at the piggery, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Boys at work in orchard
State Library of NSW



Boys harvesting maize, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Boys with ploughing teams at work
State Library of NSW



[Building under construction at Scheyville Training Farm]

Boys with ploughing teams receiving instructions
State Library of NSW



[Building under construction at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW

Bringing the cattle in for milking, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Building under construction, Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW

State Records of NSW



[Building under construction, Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Dairy herd, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Dining room, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Dormitory & quadrangle, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



The dormitory, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Draughthorse
State Library of NSW



English boys loading lorry with sheep skins
State Library of NSW



[Farm workers being taught how to milk at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Faces of four young men mounted onto a harvesting scene at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Faces of seven young men mounted onto a view of a harvesting scene at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Family group on verandah of Manager's Cottage at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Farm workers alongside horse drawn dray and harnessed horses at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Farm workers with horses at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Farm workers feeding chickens at Scheyville training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Farm workers harvesting at Scheyville training Farm]
State Records of NSW



General view, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Fruit picking at **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



[General view of the landscape of **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



In the vegetable garden, **Scheyville Farm**
State Library of NSW



[Group of boys feeding calves at **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



Group of staff and boys, **Scheyville Farm**
State Library of NSW



[Group photograph of immigrant boys and farm workers at **Scheyville Training Farms**]
State Records of NSW



Hay loading, **Scheyville Farm**
State Library of NSW



[Herd of cattle at **Scheyville Training Farm**] State
Records of NSW



[Horsedrawn plough at **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



[Horse drawn ploughs at **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



[Horse drawn ploughs in field at **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



Interior of a dormitory, **Scheyville Farm**
State Library of NSW



[Interior of dormitory at **Scheyville Training Farm**]
State Records of NSW



Jersey Bull (Judge of Cullenbone)
State Library of NSW



The kitchen, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Kitchen, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Lesson in shoeing, blacksmith's shop
State Library of NSW



[Men receiving mail at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Main drive, Scheyville Farm showing recreation hall
State Library of NSW



[Manager's cottage and Post Office at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Manager's residence, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Meal time at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Prize winning bull at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Motor vehicle approaching Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Mustering sheep
State Library of NSW



Orchard
State Library of NSW



In the poultry section, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Pigs being fed at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Ploughing, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm, attending the horses
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm, orange trees
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm: piggery
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm, showing dormitory & administration
building State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm, the piggery
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Farm trainees resting after lunch State
Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit by Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit by Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



Scheyville Welfare Farm, visit of Mr Baddeley
State Library of NSW



[Sheep being mustered at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Sheep beside watering hole at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



Sheep drafting, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Sketch of Scheyville Training Farm, by B. Wiltshire,
Designing Architect in Charge
State Records of NSW



[Small hall at Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[Tennis court and hall at Scheyville Training Farm] State
Records of NSW



Trainees at dinner, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Trainees at sheep instructions, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Trainees being taught saddlery, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Trainees learning to use a circular saw, Scheyville
Farm
State Library of NSW



Trainees learning vegetable gardening, Scheyville
Farm
State Library of NSW



Trainees milking, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



Types of saddlery made by trainees
State Library of NSW



Vegetable garden, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[Vegetable gardens at Scheyville training Farm]
State Records of NSW



View from headquarters, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



View looking east, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



View looking north, Scheyville Farm
State Library of NSW



[View of kitchen at Scheyville Training Farm] State
Records of NSW



[View of the foundations of buildings at Scheyville
Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[View of the landscape of Scheyville Training
Farm]
State Records of NSW



[View of the Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW



[View of the Scheyville Training Farm]
State Records of NSW

2.2 Historic Images of the Scheyville Migrant Holding Centre, 1949 to 1964



Aerial photo of Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



A child at her desk at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A child at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A child in the outdoor play area at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A child on the toilet at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A child painting at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A child painting at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A child playing with a toy car inside the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children and parents at the Christmas Celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children at tables for the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children dancing at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Indoor play at Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A teacher and child at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



A teacher and child at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children dressing up at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children eating icecreams at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children foot painting at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Miss T J Westman Supervisor of Pre School Services
National Archives of Australia



Children in the wading pool at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children in the wading pool at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children inside at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children outside in a wading pool at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children painting at Pre-school play centre, Immigration Centre, **Scheyville**, New South Wales in 1952
National Archives of Australia



Children painting outside at the Pre-school play centre, National Archives of Australia



Children play in the outdoor play area at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing in the sandpit at the Pre-school play centre
National Archives of Australia

Children playing in the outdoor play area at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing indoors at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia

Children playing in the sandpit at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing inside at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing outdoors at Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing with boxes at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing with clay at Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing with construction blocks at Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children playing with manipulative material at Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children receive gifts at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children seated at the Christmas celebration at the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



Children using an improvised toilet block at Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia



SCHEYVILLE Migrant Centre



Dutch Christmas celebrations at **Scheyville**
National Archives of Australia



Dutch Christmas celebrations at **Scheyville** National

National Archives of Australia



Dutch Christmas celebrations at **Scheyville**
National Archives of Australia



Dutch Christmas celebrations at **Scheyville**.
National Archives of Australia

Archives of Australia



Children at play
National Archives of Australia



SCHEYVILLE Migrant Centre,
School
National Archives of Australia



SCHEYVILLE Migrant Centre,
School
National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



National Archives of Australia



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German migrant policewoman,
Scheyville Primary School
State Library of NSW



German migrant policewoman,
Scheyville Primary School
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German migrant policewoman,
Scheyville Primary School
State Library of NSW



Parents and children at the
Christmas celebration at the Pre-
school play centre, National
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Parents and children at the
Christmas celebration at the Pre-
school play centre, National
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Parents Carols by Candlelight at
the Pre-school play centre,
National Archives of Australia

Appendix 3 Extracts from student reports

3.1 History & Description of the Quadrangle Precinct

Extracts from Conservation Management Plan for the Quadrangle Precinct Scheyville National Park

Authors:

Anna Irvine
John Kelly
Francesca O'Brian
Mark Singer

Heritage Conservation, University Of Sydney
June 2002
Conservation Methods and Practices

Quadrangle Precinct Fabric

Architectural History of the Fabric

The Quadrangle Precinct was designed and documented by the NSW Department of Public Works in 1928 in an Inter-War Mediterranean style with Inter-War Georgian Revival elements such as the symmetrical plan, roof lanterns, door fanlights and 12 panelled windows.

Thomas Q. Barford drew the documents, and the design architect is identified on the 1928 working drawings as V. Wilshire, (who was in charge of the Public Works Drawing Office at this time). Richard McDonald Seymour Wells, who was the Government Architect from May to September 1928, signed off the working drawings. R.M.S. Wells was the first Australian-born Government Architect from 1927 to his retirement in 1929.

The Inter-War Mediterranean/Georgian Revival style favoured by Government Architects of that period, provided an 'in-house' stylistic continuity for institutional buildings built by Public Works that extended back to the 1890s Vernon period. The use of gabled non-pedimental rooves, the courtyard, full-length verandas with loggias/porches, full render and deep verandas are evident in the Quadrangle Precinct and are all characteristic of Inter-War Mediterranean influences.

Architectural elements such as arches, 6-panelled double-hung window panes, rendered brickwork, pitched corrugated gabled metal rooves, chimneys, exposed eave rafters, roof lanterns, verandas and arched covered walkways are seen frequently in Public Works buildings during the 1920s and 1930s, particularly in school and hospital buildings.

The prominent roof lanterns provide some ventilation for uninsulated roof spaces, but have a more significant visual function in that they mark the centre and axis of each building block, and offset the traditional, institutional imagery with a folly to lighten the functional character of the complex.

The Quadrangle complex was provided with a full rainwater recovery system with stand tanks and underground tanks to store roof water runoff (see Appendix 2 for copy of rain water drainage plan).

Historical Alterations to the Fabric

The fabric of much of the 1929 Quadrangle Precinct is relatively unaltered and demonstrates a high level of intactness. Fabric alterations since 1930 have been relatively minor and some are reversible. Fabric damage sustained from 1983 to 1995 after the Hawkesbury Agricultural College lease expired could be restored or adapted without loss to significance. The recent external painting of the Quadrangle buildings did not require the complete removal of previous paintwork on existing render, and does not involve fabric loss.

Evidence of changes to building fabric since construction is available from existing fabric (internally) and 1947 and 1978 aerial photographs (externally). Changes are dated as follows:

1. **Dreadnought Farm (1930 -1939) and Military period (1940-1945)**
 - Planting of cypress species in courtyard; and
 - Construction of rear storage shed at Dining Block.
2. **Migrant Holding Centre period (1949-1964)**
 - Reconstruction of arrival area, parking and additional road access to migrant precinct;
 - Partitions in Dormitory Blocks 1 and 2 to provide smaller sleeping quarters;
 - Changes to Dormitory Blocks 1 and 2 wet area entrances and access to covered ways;
 - Changes in the Dining Block to meet changing food preparation technology, storage and additional enclosed areas;
 - Demolition of shed at rear of Dining Block and construction of 2 pre-fabricated storage huts connected with walkway; and

- New services (electrical, steam, sewerage). Evidence from dating of Gyprock cladding.
3. **Officer Training Unit period (1965-1973)**
 - Wet areas in Dormitory Blocks 1 and 2 to accommodate laundry facilities;
 - Balcony enclosures in Administrative Block;
 - Changes to materials during replacement of ceiling linings in Dormitory Blocks 1 and 2; and
 - Services upgrading (electrical, water services).
 4. **Hawkesbury Agricultural College period (1978-1983)**
 - Minor changes to Dining Block.
 5. **Community Uses - Vacant period (1983-1996)**
 - Termite damage;
 - Fabric damage caused by police training;
 - Loss of fabric through stripping of items, (door sets, door hardware, plumbing fittings, stainless steel kitchen fittings, copper water tanks and piping); and
 - Loss of courtyard plantings.
 6. **National Parks & Wildlife Service occupation (1996-present)**
 - Internal wall openings in Administrative Block;
 - Replacement cladding on roofs of Quadrangle Precinct, (materials changes); and
 - External repainting.

The Administrative Block

The Administration building, (the smallest in the Quadrangle Precinct), has maintained similar and continuous uses since constructed in 1929, and has suffered minimal fabric change or damage. Some damage to original fabric occurred when the front verandas were enclosed with brickwork, windows and doors. An awning roof has been added at the rear entrance sometime between the 1950s and the 1970s. Several internal changes in the mid-1990s included the forming of doorways between rooms. However these changes have been carried out sympathetically and evidence of these changes was retained.

The Administrative Block driveway has been altered considerably since 1929, with increased bitumen paved areas for parking, increased road and driveway widths, garden beds and a war memorial placed in the centre of the roundabout on the entrance door axis.

Other changes evident in the fabric include the four visitor and staff bedrooms now used as offices, and internal doors have been formed between them. The two front verandas have been enclosed with unsympathetic windows and doors.

The building has been repainted internally and externally. The roof sheeting and roof plumbing has been replaced but flashings appear original, and the chimneys have not been altered. Screen doors and windows have been added to openings, and ceiling insulation has been provided following NPWS occupation. Telephone and electrical wiring has been renewed and extended.

Dormitory Block 1 and Dormitory Block 2

The areas of greatest alteration in the two dormitory buildings were the installation of non-load bearing partitions in the 1950s Migrant Holding Centre period, with the probable loss of moveable dormitory items. The partitioning was built with little damage to the original fabric, and may be removed if desired without significant further loss of original fabric.

Other alterations to the dormitory buildings include:

- The provision of electrical wiring, power and light outlets, and telephone services in 1950 including chasing of conduits and drilling;
- Alterations to the original ablution and locker areas with new concrete slabs and rendered brick walls and chased services, the sealing of direct door access from walkways into the ablutions areas;
- The replacement of fibrous plaster ceilings with Gyprock, other than in wet areas where some original panelled ceilings remain;
- The re-sheeting of the roofs with corrugated galvanised sheeting;
- The repainting of internal surfaces; and
- The removal of early linoleum floor coverings from corridor areas in the 1950s and replacement with carpet.

The dormitory buildings were identical in layout, and built to accommodate 40 beds in each block in two rooms of twenty beds each. This accommodation matched the previous dormitory style accommodation in size and type, but was more substantial in brick construction and with ceiling linings.

Sleep-out verandas were located on each side of the dormitories, and ablution facilities and locker rooms were located at both ends of each block. A low fixed locker was placed at the foot of every bed. Windows were located between each bed.

A building entrance and porch, storerooms and accommodation for a Supervisor were located in the middle of both blocks separating each dormitory. Water tanks on stands were located at each corner of the blocks to collect roof water.

The fabric of the original 1930 dormitory blocks has been substantially internally modified, with full height non-load bearing hardwood stud walls forming 8 rooms per dormitory and a central corridor. The original ceiling linings have been removed and ceilings and stud walls are now lined with 10mm (3/8") Gyprock sheeting, possibly fixed in the mid-1950s or later when Gyprock became more widely available.

It is difficult to date the construction of internal timber framing that forms individual rooms within the earlier dormitories. Internal doors to rooms are hollow core with paper honeycomb filling and are fitted with older style door sets. This may suggest that doors to rooms have been replaced at the same time as wall linings, rewiring and other structural changes to the fabric to allow for a different accommodation type. It is suggested that the partitioning was built in the 1950s for the Migrant Holding Centre staff but further investigation is required to more accurately date this change.

Some removal of salvageable materials is evident, with the removal of copper linings of a ceiling hot water tank, and loss of taps, piping and timber shelving.

The ablution areas have been extensively modified with tiled concrete slabs installed in wet areas. Laundry facilities have been installed in each ablution area. Wall linings in these areas have been replaced with 150x150 wall tiles at various dates. The external water tanks at the ablution areas have been removed but plumbing fixings are evident on rear walls.

The circulation spaces and doors from dormitories at the south end originally led to the covered pathway and the Dining Block, presumably so that cleaning up before and after meals could proceed sequentially. Later users of these facilities sealed the access to the covered pathway, and converted these spaces to additional washing facilities, accessed only from the courtyard verandas and from the internal dormitory areas.

The Dining Block

Some upgrading of Scullery areas during the 1950s-1960s may have resulted in the removal of original ceilings in that area. Recent wall tiling may have replaced original tile finishes.

It appears that major alterations to the fabric occurred during the Officer Training Unit period of 1965-1973 in the kitchen and food preparation areas, and conversion of the staff dining room to a laundry area. The walls of communal areas in the Dining Block have a sequence of paint and wallpaper finishes that could be analysed to identify functions and periods of interiors.

The six water tanks originally located on the building perimeter have been removed. Evidence of hot water piping to the communal fireplaces for a radiator installation may have followed the nearby boiler installation in the 1950s.

The Quadrangle Courtyard and Covered Walkway

The original walkway connecting the dormitories with the Kitchen Block has had minor modification to posts and railings to allow access from the walkways to the dormitory verandas after the door links to the ablutions areas were sealed off. In the mid-1930s two Phoenix palms were planted between the courtyard walkway and at some time a 'wishing well' has been built in stone in the central paved area of the courtyard on the courtyard axes.

Current Condition of the Fabric

The fabric of the Quadrangle Precinct at Scheyville is structurally sound however aesthetically it is in poor condition. The lack of sustained maintenance, the accumulation of rubbish and damage from vandals, (broken windows, unsafe and rotten verandas, etc), have all contributed to the fabrics current state of decay.

The poor 'presentation' of the site to the visiting public parallel the current fabric condition of the Scheyville Quadrangle Buildings.

The abovementioned state is believed to be the result of a lack of funding, and has resulted in minimal public accessibility into the Quadrangle Precinct. This has limited the range of experiences available to the community, which would enable them to fully appreciate the place and its significance.

The Plan of Management for the National Park calls for stabilisation of the fabric of the existing buildings and this has been generally implemented over the last few years. During the NPWS occupation of the site, the Quadrangle Precinct has been repainted a pale blue colour and the quadrangle lawn is being regularly mown.

The Administrative Block

The Administrative Block is now used as the NPWS area headquarters. This building is currently infested with termites and apparently there are plans to fix this problem, although this is yet to be confirmed.

The building condition appears quite good, with little evidence of footing movement. The building displays the 1929 foundation stone for the Quadrangle Precinct, which is adjacent to the entrance.

Although Dormitory Blocks 1 and 2 have been boarded and locked since the occupation of the site by NPWS, the buildings have sustained considerable damage by vandals. The southern end of Dormitory Block 1, (eastern dormitory building), has collapsed and numerous holes have been made in walls, floor and ceiling. Large amounts of graffiti are also evident. Dormitory Block 2, (western dormitory building), has sustained less damage, but boasts a similar condition. The bathrooms at the northern end of both Dormitory Blocks 1 and 2 have been refurbished by the NPWS and are now used as male and female toilets for the general public. At some period either prior to, or during the NPWS occupation, many boards have been lifted from the verandas on either side of both dormitory buildings.

Extensive termite damage is evident to partition walls and floorboards. Traditional timber-framed underfloor structures with piers, 6"x3" bearers and 6"x2" joists, appear generally intact, but it appears that ant capping was not installed. There are terracotta grilles at the subfloor level along the building edges away from the courtyard and traditional sub-floor flow through ventilation is not evident, increasing termite risk.

Floor linings vary, and evidence of linoleum of the 1930 period exists in some rooms. There is evidence that linoleum in central corridors was replaced with carpet and fibre underlay. However all carpets have been removed and only fragments remain.

Original external doors appear generally intact but are lined externally with plywood to prevent unauthorised access. Window frames and sashes are generally intact but sealed or locked.

The ceilings in Dormitory Block 1 ablution areas appear to be the original fibrous plaster with exposed battened surfaces providing a panelled appearance. This may have provided a firmer support for the linings in high humidity areas. In Dormitory Block 2, the ablutions area ceiling on the north end has been replaced with plasterboard.

Roof framing appears intact, and corrugated iron roof linings and roof plumbing have been replaced with matching Zincalume and Colorbond products. Evidence of original roof flashings exists at the junction of dormitory and walkway roofs. Roof ventilation is provided through brickwork hit-and-miss wall grilles at gables and through the central roof lantern of each building.

The Dining Block

The Dining Block has also been boarded and locked for its protection and is not in use at this time. Again, there has been destruction of parts of this building by vandals, with graffiti and holes evident

throughout. The parquetry floor in the dining section of this building shows some disturbance, and there is evidence that various windows have been repaired. Also at some period, (again either prior to or during the occupation of the site by the NPWS), there was a fire that has destroyed the elongated southern section of this building.

The functions of the building have not changed significantly since 1929 although there have been alterations and fit-outs to meet changing user needs. The lack of maintenance, vandalism and loss of continuing use has led to fabric damage to the rear wing following a fire, damage to original ceiling linings, removal of large internal doors and built-in furniture, kitchen benches and shelves, and damage to floor finishes.

The fire in the rear wing has destroyed the timber roof structure and remaining fabric is exposed to the weather and deteriorating. A raised floor at the western end of the building has been removed to provide permanent underfloor access. This may have occurred during building uses in the 1990s.

The roof framing and fibrous plaster ceilings appear to be original but considerable damage to ceiling linings has occurred through water ingress. New metal ceilings have been installed in kitchen areas.

Floors are timber framed in dining and recreation areas and concrete slab in kitchen servery and scullery areas and wet areas. A number of later floor finishes are laid on the original dressed 4" tongue and groove floorboards, including hardwood parquet and carpet.

There is evidence of arched walkways provided to the rear of the Kitchen Block, leading to the rear of the adjoining large Nissan-type hall on the western end of the Kitchen Block.

The five store rooms on the south-eastern end of the Kitchen Block, including a fuel store, a meat store and an older style laundry with a wood fired copper, was burnt out in a 1990s fire. Much of the timber framing has been damaged, but the major timbers are still identifiable and the brickwork is intact. The roof sheeting of the wing has been removed and the remaining fabric is deteriorating.

The Quadrangle Courtyard and Covered Walkway

The covered walkway between the Dining Block and the two adjoining pre-fabricated huts is weathered, as are the pre-fabricated huts themselves. In keeping with the remainder of the Quadrangle Precinct, these structures have been vandalised.

The courtyard retains the original path layout but appears to have a finished surface generally higher than as documented, (the courtyard levels may have risen over time), and without falls as shown in the working drawings. Iron hoop path edging found in the 1930s photos has been replaced with low stone and concrete edging.

The original walkway connecting the dormitories with the Kitchen Block is intact, with minor modification to posts and railings to allow access from the walkways to the dormitory verandas after the door links to the ablutions areas were sealed off.

The courtyard fabric appears relatively intact with the significant Phoenix palms remaining. Loss of the 1936 cypresses planting has occurred in the courtyard, and another tree (jacaranda) has been planted in the 1970s. The remaining buildings on the site appear to be in much the same state as the Quadrangle Precinct. During discussion with NPWS staff it became apparent buildings from the Migrant Holding Centre and OTU periods were demolished by the NPWS when they took control of the site as they were deemed to be in a state that was not conducive to repair.

3.2 History & Description of the Hut Precinct

**Extracts from
Conservation Management Plan
for the Hut Precinct
Scheyville National Park**

Authors:

Stephen Booker
Nora De Guzman
Rachel Lenehan
Pam Lofthouse

Heritage Conservation, University Of Sydney
June 2002
Conservation Methods and Practices

The Camp Area within Scheyville National Park

The historic buildings are clustered around a ridge line to the south of Scheyville Road. Several remnants of buildings are located in pastureland to the east of the ridge, through which a History Trail has been created. The historic buildings area and related structures are defined for this Plan as the “camp area” (refer to Figure 2.2).



Figure 2.2: The Camp Area shown on a 1965 Lands Department photograph.

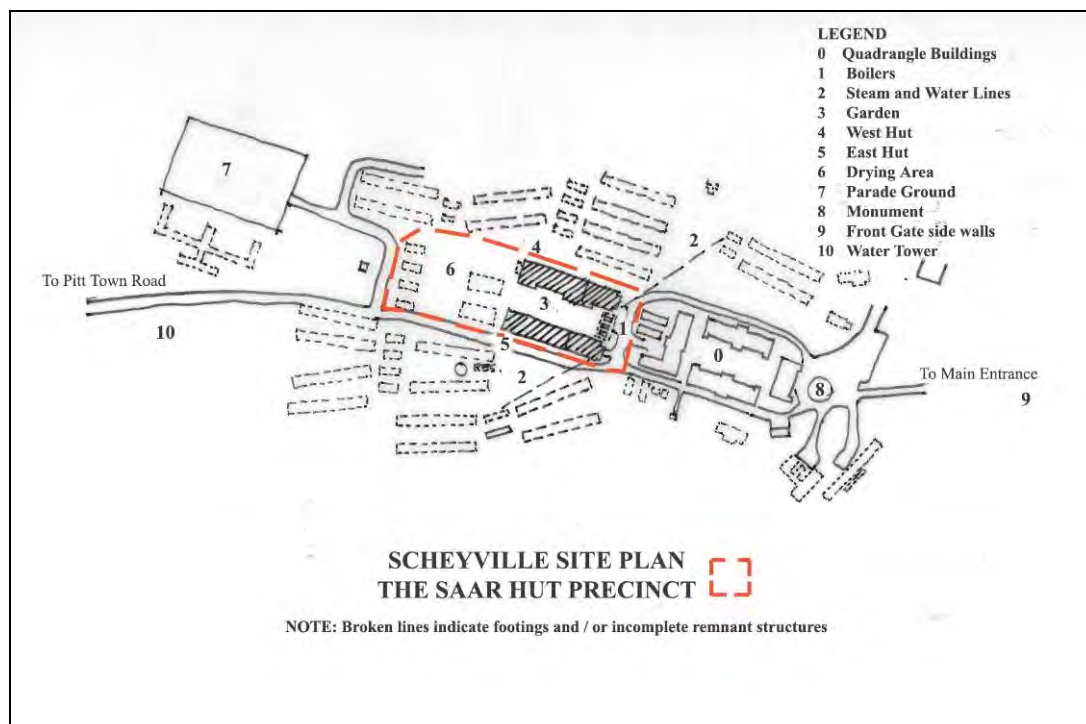


Figure 2.3: Site Plan for the Camp Area
(Source – S Booker, 2002)

The Elements of the Hut Precinct within the Camp Area

The two semicircular huts, and their timber annexes, are located to the south of the four quadrangle buildings. The hut precinct is defined by the concrete paths on the eastern, southern and western sides of these large huts, and the boilers to the north.

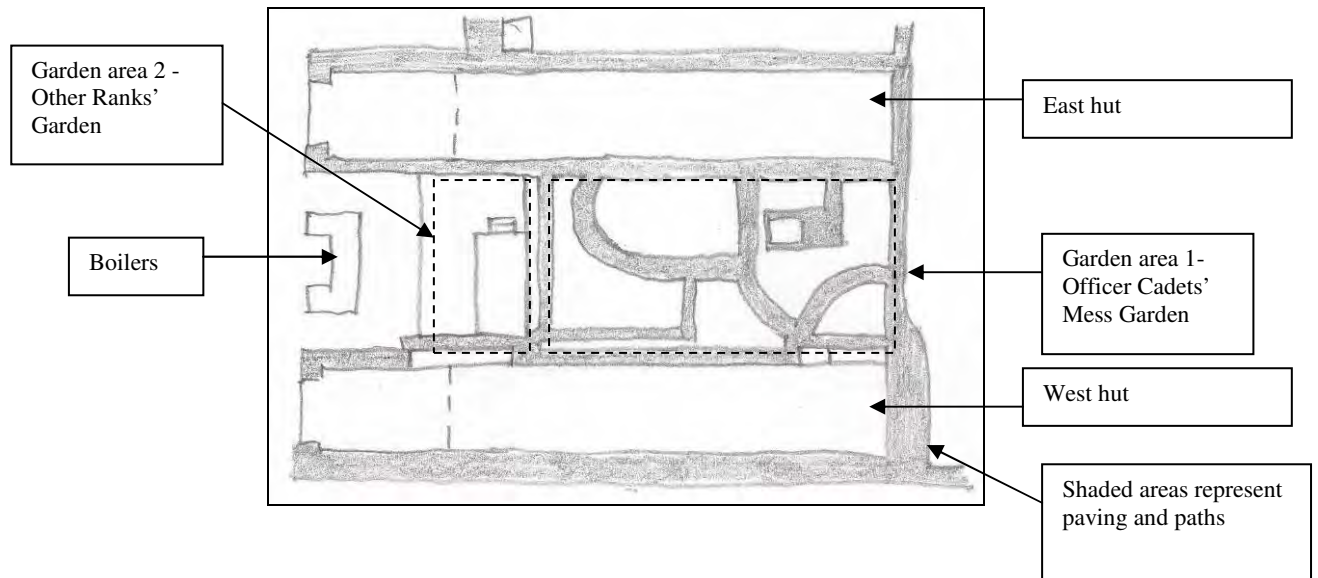


Figure 2.4: Diagram of buildings, paths and garden features forming the hut precinct.
(Source – P Lofthouse)

The Curtilage of the Hut Precinct

The two hut structures cannot be read in isolation from the other elements of the Park that confer context and thus meaning to the items and their setting. However an arbitrary division has been drawn to define project demarcations, while in reality, the quadrangle buildings, some remnant of the farm buildings, the parade ground, the entrance gates and the other structures and objects that pepper the site are contributory components in other phases of the site's history. As a result, the curtilages of the phases vary.

Figure 3.5 indicates the correlation between the significant historical phases in the utilisation of the large huts. During the migrant period the pasture and buildings east of the camp area continued to be used for farming activities for several years, before some farm buildings became part of the Migrant Holding Centre. When the camp area was used as an Army Officer Training Unit, the land use extended to encompass the rifle range area, extensive sporting fields to the north and obstacle and training courses. An area to the north west, known as Long Tan Close, was incorporated comprising ten residences that were constructed for staff associated with the Officer Training Unit.

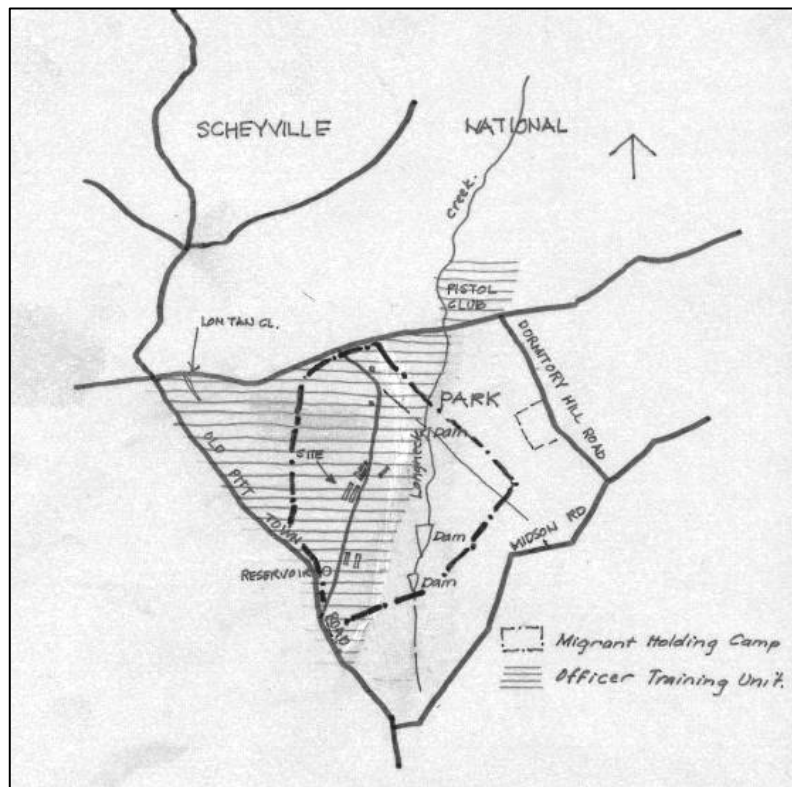


Figure 2.5: Curtilages for the two major historical phases of the hut precinct.
(Source – S Booker)

Although the large huts cannot therefore be considered in isolation from the camp area or the surrounding pasture areas, this Conservation Management Plan will only assess the cultural significance of the hut precinct. However, where possible the significance of the huts and conservation policies will be related to the wider areas for which the huts form a nucleus.

History of the Hut Precinct

Migrant Holding Centre

The Huts

Together with several other smaller prefabricated huts for the new Holding Centre, the large huts were sourced from Manus Island.¹ They were to provide the dining and recreation areas for approximately 1,000 women and children migrants, while the men of the families worked and lived elsewhere. Each hut was to have a wooden kitchen building attached to the northern end. The NSW Department of Works and Housing and its architect a Mr Taverner carried out the work on behalf of the Commonwealth Immigration Department and let the building contract to a Mr Welch.

The west kitchen was completed in July 1949, and by October the west hut had been erected. Although industrial problems delayed the building program, the number of migrants arriving in Sydney increased rapidly during 1949, and pressure was applied for the Centre to open quickly. It was decided to open half of the Centre, while still completing the Centre's buildings. By 19th December 1949, the 600 people in residence were suffering from flooding, leaking roofs, inadequate refrigeration and poor cooking facilities.² By January 1950 work was well advanced on the east kitchen, and the east hut was completed several weeks later.

¹ NAA 1951/15/5233, Memo from R H Wheeler, Commonwealth Immigration to B T Stone, NSW Department of Works and Housing, 1 March 1949.

² Ibid, telegram from Mr. Schroder, Immigration to Comworks in Sydney, 19 December 1949.

Due to the increased migrant numbers, the west hut was all required for dining. Referred to as the ABC Mess Hall, it serviced the 10 accommodation huts in A, B and C blocks of the camp (refer to Figure 3.1).

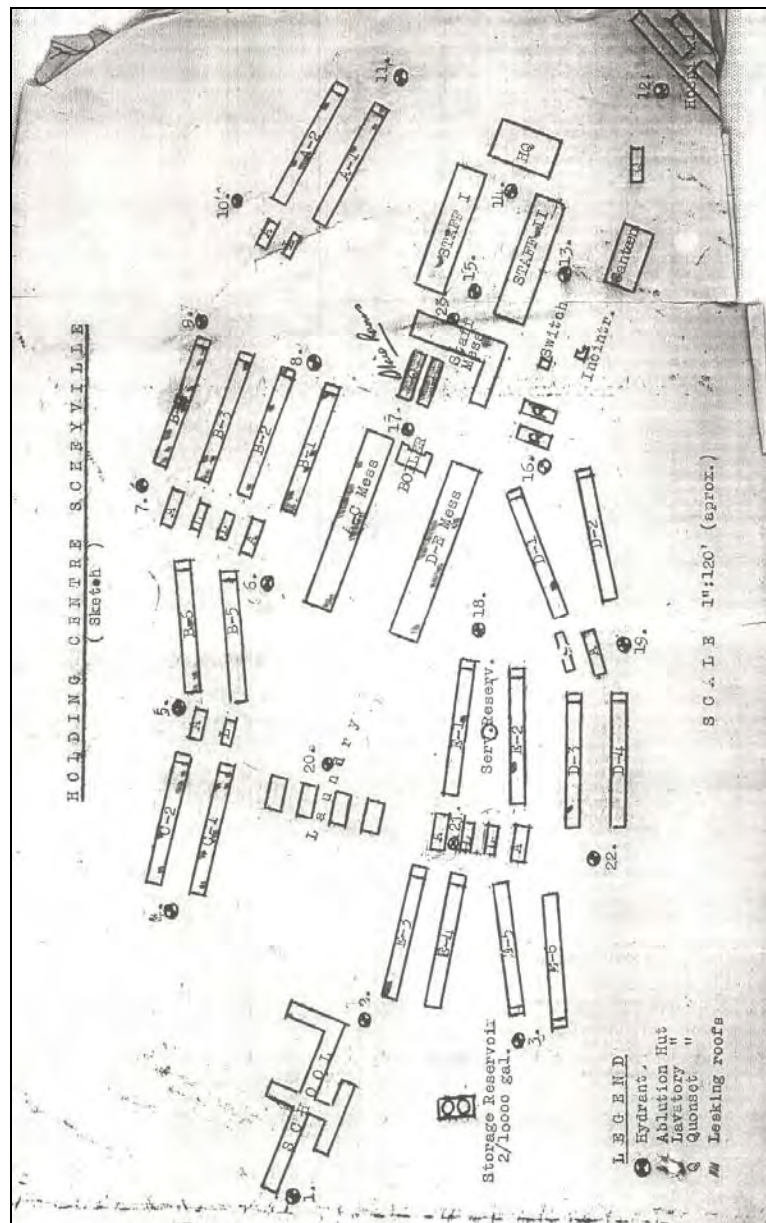


Figure 3.1: Site plan prepared by the Director of the Scheyville Holding Centre to illustrate leaking roofs, 14 June 1951. (Source – National Archives, A445 220/29/26)



Figure 3.2: Migrant Holding Centre, looking north. The huts are in the middle of the photo.
(Source – NPWS)



Figure 3.3: Migrants' Dining Room, West Hut, 1950s
(Source – NPWS)

The kitchens were fitted with new steam cooking equipment, which was different to the facilities provided in other Centres. Migrants were trained as cooks.



Figure 3.4: Migrant Cooks, 1950s

(Source – NPWS)

The northern section of the east hut became the DE Mess Hall, servicing the D and E accommodation blocks. The other part of the hut was used as an Adult Education Centre during the day, and a table tennis and recreation area at night. Movies were shown regularly - residents and their visitors could watch the "pictures" for 3 pence, 2 nights a week.³ In 1952 the recreation area was converted to a pre-school kindergarten, to encourage more mothers to attend Education classes and overcome the lack of play areas for children in the Centre). A separate recreation hall and movie theatre was proposed, although this was not completed until 1954.

Some migrants remember the west hut as a dining area, although at least one recalls that it was used as a storage area for linen, mattresses, dry goods, extra utensils and kitchen items.⁴

In 1953, to reduce the costs of washing up (staff and broken crockery) it was decided to build washing up facilities so that the migrants could use and wash their own dishes. Shelters were built along the sides of the two kitchens, with new access doors built from the Mess Halls.

The Garden

After the establishment of the kindergarten in the east hut, the Divisional Preschool Officer proposed a children's playground between the two huts. Concrete paths were built, a sandpit was installed and the area grassed. A new door was cut into the hut wall. The playground was enclosed with wooden post-and-rail fencing, with cyclone wire and barbed wire on top, as the clay area behind the boiler house was prone to flooding, and was regularly covered with fuel spills when the boilers were cleaned.

The Boilers and Steam Reticulation System

The boiler house was completed by September 1949, although no equipment had been delivered to the site. Temporary boilers were installed to allow the Centre to open in December, but the steam pressure generated by them was inadequate for the steam cooking and ablution requirements in the Centre. By February 1950, two boilers had been installed and in 1955, there were 3 colonial boilers and a Clayton's boiler. Capacity was still inadequate, and two heavy oil fired boilers were installed, with alterations to the boiler house and replacement of the existing boiler stacks.

Steam and hot water was piped around the camp in an overhead system supported on 12' high wooden posts. A series of hot water tanks on stands was built in the quadrangle and near the other Centre buildings.

Figure 3.5: Migrants laundry drying area to the south of the huts, showing overhead reticulation to the laundry buildings on the left, 1950s

(Source – NPWS)



Officer Training Unit

The Huts

The OTU continued to use both of the large huts for dining and recreation. The west hut was divided into the Officer Cadets' Anteroom at the south end, and the Officer Cadets' Mess was next to the west kitchen, which continued to be used although the internal configuration of the dining room was changed to facilitate the serving of all meals by stewards. This hut served the 10 accommodation blocks (which were now referred to as "Lines") housing 4 companies (refer to Figure 3.7).

³ Mrs Junie Jacobs, 15 Yarrawonga Street, South Windsor (4577 6079), a migrant resident from 1957 until 1959.

⁴ Mrs Monika Bugar, 14 Bennett St, Bondi (9389 0560) a migrant resident from 7 January 1957 until September 1958.

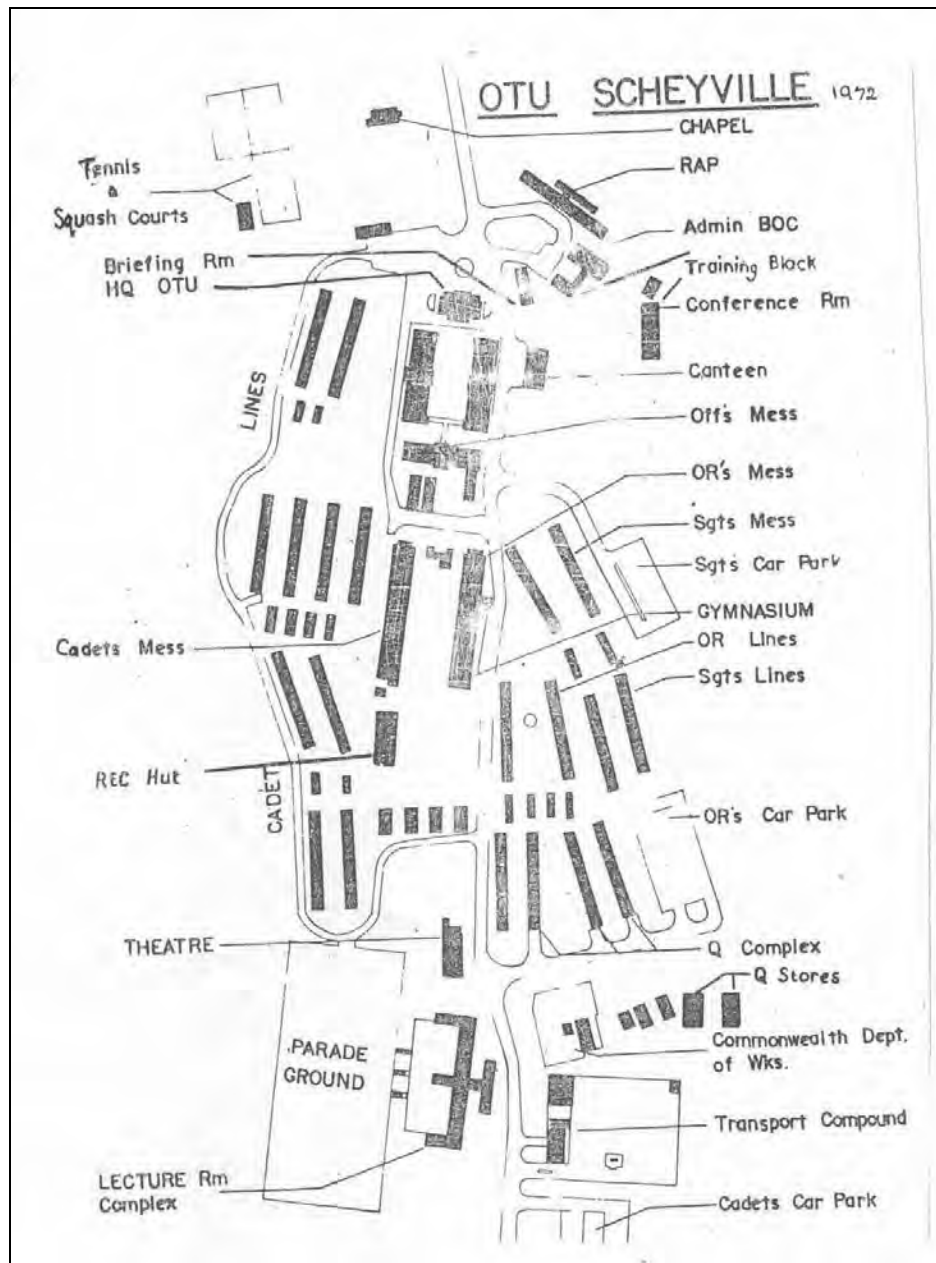


Figure 3.6: Site plan of 1972, showing the OTU uses for the buildings in the camp area. Cadets kept to the west of the central road, regular army to the east.
(Source – A Sonneveld)



Figure 3.7: The camp area looking north, during the OTU phase, 1972.
(Source – A Sonneveld)

The Officer Cadets Mess was run along the lines of an Army Officers' Mess. Comfortably furnished, it was "the centre of social activity".⁵ During their 6 months' training, Cadets were juniors for 3 months, then became seniors, some of whom were given ranks such as BSM (Battalion Sergeant Major), and PMC (President of the Mess Committee). Standing Orders provided strict instructions for behavior in the Mess, while the training including formal lessons in etiquette and dining behavior. Even during formal and informal entertainments in the Mess, the Cadets were being assessed.

The anteroom, which had a bar in the corner, provided Cadets with an opportunity to relax for just 15 minutes between day classes and formal dinner followed by evening classes. They were able to enjoy chocolate bars and 2 beers each during this time. Both the Mess and the Anteroom were used for entertaining guests during dining-in functions.



Figure 3.8: Cadets Mess Anteroom, 1972
(Source – A Sonneveld)

The east hut was divided into a gymnasium and a Mess for regular army Other Ranks (OR) who lived in accommodation blocks to the east of the huts. There was no access between the gym and the OR Mess, which was serviced by the east kitchen. The gymnasium was not a place of relaxation for the

⁵ Army Information Booklet, reproduced in Scheyvillian Magazine, 1998

Cadets. Peak physical fitness was part of the formal training, with one of the most hated activities in the gym being forced to climb ropes to the hut ceiling, using hands only.

Figure 3.9: Officer Cadets' gymnasium, 1972, looking north, showing a basketball court and the hated ropes. There is no access to the OR Mess from the gym.
(Source – A Sonneveld)



The Garden

The kindergarten playground was divided into two garden areas, one for the Officer Cadets and the other for Other Ranks. The Cadets' Mess Garden was accessed from the west hut by an enclosed porch and outdoor bar area.

Figure 3.10: Officer Cadets' Mess Garden, looking SW past the west hut.
(Source – A Sonneveld)



The pond, seat, paths and lawns were retained, and a barbecue was built. A recreation room containing pool tables was built in the area which had been the migrants drying area – this room was accessed from the garden.

The OR Mess Garden was accessed from the east hut. A sunken barbecue area was built in this garden. The two gardens and boiler area were divided by high fences with lattice.

The Boilers and Steam Reticulation System

The boilers and overhead reticulation system continued to be used during the OTU years.

Hawkesbury Agricultural College and Community Uses

The Huts

No evidence can be found that the College used the huts, except for reference to a gymnasium which may have been in the east hut or the recreation hall.

The major use of the huts during this period was for the restoration of aircraft. Both parts and planes were stored in the huts and the kitchens. In 1993, when the OTU Association wished to hold a reunion function in the east hut, it was cleared of the aircraft parts which had been stacked to the ceiling, and cleaned with a fire hose.

In 1994, the east hut was again used by the OTU Association during a ceremony and unveiling of a plaque on the monument, commemorating the 8 graduates who died in Vietnam.

The Garden

During 1984 the garden was used as a set during filming of "Silver City". One scene shows the pond and the cement seat in the background.

Scheyville National Park

The Huts

The huts have remained unused and derelict.... Until 1997 the concrete pads remaining after the demolition of the accommodation blocks were still visible from the huts, giving some sense of the relationship between the huts and the camp area they served. However, these pads are now obscured. The huts are now fenced off to prevent access by Park visitors.

The Boilers

The boiler house was demolished in 1996. The 3 boilers were left intact, but exposed to the elements.

Physical Evidence

Identification of the Hut Type

In prior documentation, the nomenclature used in relation to the huts has been incorrect. Research carried out in the preparation of this Plan has determined that the large semicircular arched structures, are not “Standard SSAR” huts as previously described, but SSAR huts.⁶ The term appears to be an acronym. However, the Hut Group’s research has not determined what the individual letters refer to.⁷

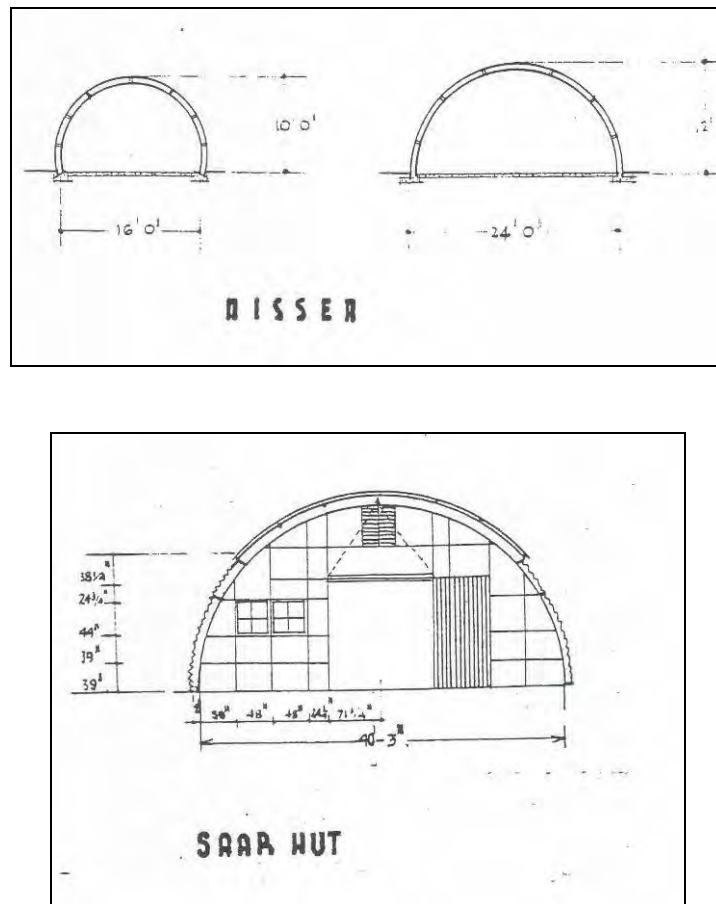


Figure 4.1: Cross sections of the hut types
(Source – extract from Dept of Works Manual, 1951)

The building design incorporates both steel semi-circular ribbed framed huts and timber framed gable roofed appurtenant /abutting structures. The key indicators for the huts’ identification as SSAR huts are:

- The structure comprises “I” profiled fabricated semi circular frames measuring 150mm depth by 55mm width. The manner of fabrication is also distinctive. A “U” shaped section is

⁶ The primary source for identification criteria is Dr Iain Stuart, *Of the Hut I Bolted; - A Preliminary account of prefabricated semi-circular huts in Australia*. Draft Working Paper, January 2002.

⁷ Sources researched in trying to identify the meaning of SAAR were the Army Ordinance Corps Museum, Albury; the Engineers Museum, Casula; Army Museum, Victoria Barracks; Duntroon Archives, Army Museum of South Australia; South Australian Migration Museum. As it was South Australia which imported 30 SAAR huts from Manus Island, it may be a South Australian term.

abutted by “L” shaped angles rivetted at upper and lower legs which join to form an “I” section. The intersection forms a friction fit for mechanical fixing of exterior claddings.



Figure 4.2: Structural “I” rib showing rivets and U section
(Source - P Lofthouse)

- The lower wall cladding runs horizontally along the length of the steel structure while the upper cladding/roofing runs vertically. The frames are spaced at 4 feet (1200mm) centres, have a span of approximately 12000mm and a height of 6000mm.

The upper roof section is articulated from the lower to provide a space for ventilation of the interior. In this way the upper roof over-sailed the lower roof for the full length of the building. This ventilation gap was reflected in the internal linings in which the gap was formalised as a ventilating strip. This is well demonstrated in the west hut where perforated Masonite linings were inserted in the ventilation strip.

Conversely, Standard SSAR huts are constructed from lightweight inverted “T” section bows forming the skeletal framing. While this type of building was used as military barracks and field hospitals as well as large warehouses, the distinguishing feature is the use of a hook bolt to attach the pre curved cladding. The cladding only runs vertically over the structure. The American version of the Standard SSAR hut is a Quonset hut, of which one of the variations is a Quonset warehouse. Commonwealth Immigration documents referring to the huts during their construction and use by the Holding Centre describe them variously as “S.A.A.R.” and “Quonset” huts.⁸

⁸ National Archives Files A443 1951/15/5233 and A445 220/29/2.

General Description of the Fabric within the Hut Precinct

The Garden

The physical evidence today is clearly of the period when the cadets used the garden. The cadets' former mess garden is overgrown with weeds although the remaining evidence of how it was used is relatively intact.

The garden is bounded on the east and west by the huts, the path between the huts' southern entrances on the south and a low brick retaining wall separates the Garden from the boilers on the northern side.

The hierarchy of paths within the garden is somewhat evident underneath the weeds and grass that have grown. The central path is intact. There are no remnants of the OTU cadets' barbeque on the concrete slab in the south west corner, nor the storage shed which the Holding Centre kindergarten built on that slab.

Between the southern ends of the huts is a small intact rectangular pond.

Close to the garden's northern boundary is a sunken barbeque area, which was part of the OR mess garden. Its steps are intact and the walls are well defined, but the brickwork of the barbeque pit is deteriorated. The base of a light stanchion protrudes from the ground beside the sunken area.



Figure 4.5: Sunken barbeque in OR mess garden
(Source – P Lofthouse)

An upturned cement seat lies in the middle of the garden. Photographs of the garden area during the OTU phase confirms that this belongs to the garden setting.



Figure 4.6: Cadets' mess garden looking SW, showing cement seat.

(Source – P Lofthouse)

The plantings include exotics such as oleanders and poplars, together with native species such as angophora.

The Boilers

Three boilers are present at the northern extremity of the garden area. Fuel tanks are still located beneath the concrete slab driveway. The condition of these was unable to be determined. The boilers are a prominent element of industrial archaeology in the setting of the huts and the landscaped garden. The building shell which used to house these boilers has been demolished, leaving the three pieces of equipment comprising the boilers exposed to the deteriorating influences of the weather.

Timber poles between the boilers and the garden may be remnants of the structure that elevated the pipes 12 feet (3.6 m) above ground level and distributed hot water around the site. These are a very important industrial remnant of the operation of the facilities in the hut precinct. The overhead steam and water lines, which were a highly identifiable facet of the place and crucial to the operation of all the boilers and their integration into camp area, have been dismantled. Some pipes remain on the gable roofed structures and some pipes are lying on the ground.

Even in their present condition, the boilers' operational design is still evident. Although exposed to the weather, most of the original two boilers and their flues are intact. The third more modern diesel boiler lies on the westernmost side. There are remnants of fuel lines and two fuel pumps used in its operation.

Figure 4.7: Boilers showing remnant walls from the boiler house, and tank stands
(Source – P Lofthouse)

Tank stands on either side of the boilers remain on site. These were integral to the operation of the reticulation.

Remnants of the building that enclosed the boilers are lying around the north garden area.



Figure 4.8: Boiler house in 1991 prior to demolition, showing vent cowlings. (Source – Edds, 1991)



Figure 4.9: Exhaust vent cowlings near east hut. (Source – P Lofthouse)



Timber Framed and Gable Roof Components.

To the north of each of the SSAR huts is a gable roofed weather board clad timber framed structure each of which were constructed as kitchens prior to the arrival of the respective prefabricated hut and attached to the semi-circular structure rudely but effectively.

Figure 4.10: East hut junction with timber-framed kitchen. Also showing the SSAR hut cladding style. (Source – P Lofthouse)



Edds suggested that these sections of the buildings were “unsympathetic additions”.⁹ This assertion is incorrect. They were constructed prior to the arrival of each of the respective adjacent prefabricated SSAR huts and are an important aspect of the use of SSAR huts in migrant centres.¹⁰ The condition of the timber portion of the kitchens is rapidly deteriorating, the principal reasons being lack of use combined with vandalism. Missing fabric and walls remaining unpainted together with the envelope being unsecured perpetuates this regime.

⁹ Graham Edds, op. cit..

¹⁰ A similar configuration was used at the East Hills, Villawood and Wollongong migrant centres.

General Layout

The timber framed kitchen to each hut's northern end is 12.5m maximum width and aligns with the abutting steel structure. The gutter line is independent, as the SSAR huts' roof runoff is collected directly by surface drainage channels and piped to the gullies to the west of the site. Still intact today, these drains, integral with the floor slabs, created problems in the early operation of the facility as local flooding of buildings is a recurrent topic in the building reports by the construction authority.¹¹ The semi circular section of the huts had no gutters, the horizontal sheets on the lower walls slowing the velocity of runoff water.

Roofing and Structural system

The corrugated roofing is supported by a conventionally pitched roof supported on a timber post-and-beam structure to provide for larger column free spaces in the kitchen areas. Supplementary framing has been provided internally over time to compensate for new exhaust hoods and differing equipment layouts being implemented.

Flooring and Walls

Horizontal rusticated profile weatherboards cover both buildings' exterior walls. The west kitchen has much of this cladding missing.

The floor structure is concrete. A number of different floor finishes have been utilised over time, however the remnant prominently evidenced is ceramic / vitrified tiles. Much of the flooring has been destroyed or removed.

Figure 4.11: Kitchen flooring, with army partitions built over the original tiling.
(Source – P Lofthouse)



Openings

The original windows are timber-framed in an awning or hopper configuration.

Figure 4.12: The two window styles, louvre and hopper
(Source – P Lofthouse)



Doors throughout the facility are utilitarian timber solid panel doors. Some specific locations required the installation of roller doors and glazed joinery doors. These have not survived well in situ.

¹¹ National Archives File A443 1951/15/5233.

Both timber framed sections have accommodated kitchen layouts incorporating cool rooms, compressors, kitchen sinks, counters and work benches, with the size of the facilities having necessitated the exhaust hoods that remain in position. These are the few elements enabling the discernment of the kitchen operation. Certainly, the kitchen equipment layout significantly altered between the Holding Camp phase and the OTU phase. The remnants reflect the latter.

The SSAR Huts

General layout

The dimensions of the semicircular steel framed buildings are approximately 48m (length) x12.5m (width) x6m (height). Their northern ends are attached to the lower gable kitchen structures described above. The southern end is terminated in a weatherboard clad timber framed gable wall. There is no consistency in the remaining physical evidence of the arrangement of openings originally in the southern gabled walls. Each gable end retains a pair of permanently ventilating openings at high level. They vary in proportion between the west and the east hut.

Roofing and Structural system

Semicircular 2" x 6" (50x 150mm) ribs spaced 4 feet (1200mm) apart make up the structural skeleton of the semi-circular section of the huts. Timber purlins support corrugated iron roofing, which clad the upper portion of the steel ribs. The depth of the upper purlins exceed the lower to enable the formation of ventilating strips for the full length of each building.

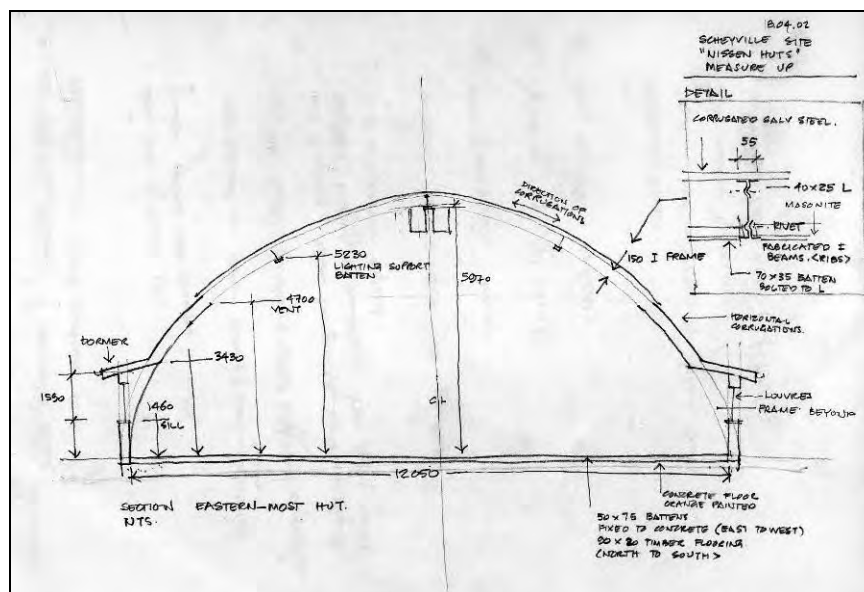


Figure 4.13: Field sketch of typical hut structural section.
(Source – S Booker)

Flooring

The east hut has a timber floor laid over the original concrete and malthoid substrate, while the concrete floor of the west hut is generally in good condition.

Walls

Horizontal corrugated iron cladding covers the lower exterior of each hut. There is no substantial interior ceiling cladding in the east hut while large areas of hardboard cladding still exist in the west hut interior. The west hut interior walls are damaged through vandalism.

Both huts were divided into two sections. The eastern hut is reminiscent of the OTU phase of fitout, while the western hut remains configured as it was during the migrant phase. The east hut dividing wall is in pieces on the floor.

Openings

Canopied doors and dormer windows are located between the structural steel ribs. A simple frame supports the corrugated iron roofing overhead while the lower wall stud work provides a suitable ground for fixing door and window frames.

Later adaptations in the eastern hut carried out during the OTU phase, introduced glass louvre windows with aluminum stiles and mechanisms in the Gymnasium. This was logical as the need for unimpeded cross ventilation in the gym meant the original hopper windows were unsuitable for the purpose. The northern section of the east hut, the Other Ranks' Mess, retained its hopper windows. Windows and doors in both huts have been boarded up where damaged.

Doors are of more varied materials than in the timber framed areas of the buildings. They range from timber framed and paneled doors to steel roller doors. No roller doors were found to be fixed in position or operable.

Fixtures and Facilities

In the west hut, drop cords of the pendant lights (previously shown in Figure 3.3), without the light fixtures, remain hanging from the ceiling and two overhead steam heaters are located along its length, one on each side of the partitioned space. A PA system speaker remains on the roof of this hut, facing the garden.

Miscellaneous

Building elements such as doors, fly screens and pipes remain scattered around the site.

Detailed Description of the Hut Fabric

The East SSAR Hut

The corrugated iron exterior of the east hut has not weathered as well as the western hut. This is possibly due to the adjacent tree cover to the east, or recladding of the west hut. The condition of the building internally is sound, with some damage having been caused the structural framing to the eastern wall where the roller door was removed. The southern wall is partially damaged, weatherboards have been removed and it remains open to the weather.

No services are apparent within the building. Much debris lies around, with some fittings being evidently dislodged from the walls and ceilings.

The east hut was constructed after the western structure, to mirror the arrangements in the western structure, but during the OTU phase, was modified as a gymnasium at the southern end. A lower level flat suspended ceiling replaced the vaulted Masonite form in the OR Mess in the northernmost section of the hut. The gymnasium area was substantially stripped of its linings to accommodate basketball rings and court and climbing ropes, for physical training.

The back of the external cladding has been painted. It is unclear as to whether the use of this building for the interior settings of the film "Silver City" led to its being repainted and modified as a prop. Early shots in the 1983 movie show the buildings of Scheyville and in particular the east and west huts to be in a deteriorated state. Film footage also shows the exterior to have been rejuvenated. This layer of the building adds a complexity in determining what are genuine remnants and what were left over props/facsimiles.

The hut was cleaned up in 1993 for an OTU Association reunion. The Association used the building again in 1994 when they had a service to unveil the plaque to the eight people who died in Vietnam. This explains the reason for the building being relatively clear of debris in the southern end.

The timber floor remains, raised above the original concrete substrate by 110mm, although rotted in places. A fire has been the cause of damage to the floor, having burned the tongue and groove boards and the supporting joists. There is evidence of earlier resilient sheet/ tile finish on the concrete floor below the timber. The floor in this area displays some evidence of the malthoid waterproofing that in 1954 needed to be replaced and the exposed areas of the substrate of the linoleum floor required for the kindergarten that was established in this area.

Two doors opened to the eastern side of the building and also to the west to the central garden area. One of these doors is an outward opening pair of leaves, possibly an adaptation relating to the use of the building as a gymnasium during the OTU phase. No verandahs appear to have been attached to this building. In the migrant phase the doorways to the garden area from the southern section of the hut were important as these led from the kindergarten to the outdoor play area.

No pendant light fittings are present, however three timber battens running the length of the arched roof run parallel to the axial centre. These appear to have been provided to support light fittings. Photos of the gymnasium indicate fluorescent troffer lights being present. Evidence of troffer lights is confirmed through materials remaining on the floor of the eastern hut. Over the OR Mess, the earlier ceiling that was obscured by the flat suspended ceiling reveals the light positions and pendant cords.

Figure 4.14: Remnants of hut dividing wall and gym lighting in east hut.

(Source – P Lofthouse)

Windows in the gable ends are permanently venting and adjustable louvres within the dormers to the east and the west elevation are an adaptation from the OTU gymnasium. Within the OR Mess, the



windows are hopper type equivalent to those throughout the western hut. This suggests that the louvres were a later adaptation only in the Gymnasium.

Structural damage has been occasioned to the eastern ribs between grid 15 and 18. NPWS staff at Scheyville advised that this was as a result of a “ram raid” to remove the stainless steel kitchen equipment from the building. A roller door was present in part of this opening. The roller door is possibly that lying adjacent to the south east of the west hut.

Internal partitions to a small toilet in the OR mess are incomplete. A toilet block immediately to the east outside the south wall to the building has been levelled, leaving the floor tiles and urinal hob only. The wall positions can be discerned from remaining bricks on the ground surface. This demolition dates from post 1984. The film “Silver City” indicates those walls to be still present at that time.

The East Kitchen

Substantial adaptations and modifications have been carried out to the kitchen area of this building, with significant numbers of walls being removed and replaced with supplementary columns and beams. This appears to have been to facilitate the introduction of a large exhaust hood over a cooking area. The equipment is no longer present. The exhaust hood is present and indicative of the size of the equipment being served. The supplementary ceiling and roof support still witnesses the position of the walls removed.

Figure 4.15: East kitchen
(Source – N De Guzman)



Some of the western weatherboards have been removed from the kitchen area, exposing the wall framing to deterioration.

The West SSAR Hut

The west hut was the first of the two to be constructed. The hut area is largely intact and appears structurally sound. The building retains its interior hardboard linings, windows and window glass, heaters and pendant light fitting droppers. The southern gable end wall is depleted and allows the ingress of weather. There are some additions to the eastern wall that are from later adaptations, including the migrant washing up verandahs and the (formerly) enclosed porch to the OTU Cadet's Bar. The floor coverings are missing, and much of the interior paintwork is flaking.

Internal fixtures such as luminaries are missing, however the pendant droppers for the distinctive light fittings still exist. Services to the building have been stopped off. Two heaters remain suspended from the eastern ceiling. These were connected to pipes leading back to the boiler area. This suggests the use of the boilers in providing not only hot water and steam, but also heating.

Hardboard linings are substantially intact across the ceiling. Lower on the walls, they have been vandalised. At the time of construction (1949-50), hardboard was a relatively new "wonder" material which comparatively, found favour in many applications where cheap and highly durable finishes were required. Easily handled, quickly erected and fixed and finished with contemporary finishes it wasn't as brittle as asbestos cement and could easily be curved without soaking with water for long periods beforehand. The materials used could have been "Masonite" or "Burnieboard". This needs to be verified in a fabric survey. The mess and anteroom division wall with a wide opening approximately 2.1 m high remains in part only. The concertina door is no longer present.

Figure 4.16: West hut looking north, with remains of dividing wall between mess and anteroom.
(Source – N De Guzman)



Perforated sheets were used along the slot formed at approximately two thirds the room height, for the purpose of maintaining ventilation. This position correlates with the external articulated corrugated galvanized iron sheets. Some perforated sheets are missing (see Figure 4.16) , as steel framing members are visible in the area of the slot. Perforated sheets occur within the remainder of the west hut.

Windows in the west hut are vertically stacked hopper type. The frequency of occurrence of these hopper windows on the site suggests that they were the original window type.

The floor is formed through a series of concrete slabs, laid in panels and jointed with a bitumen impregnated material. As the slab sections are differentially moving in vertical alignment, it is possible that the slabs are not dowelled at the joints.

The vinyl or linoleum tiles previously present in the west hut are only discernible from the residual adhesive pattern on the concrete floor.¹² None remains on site. A close scrutiny of remnant fabric lying around the site is necessary to discern possible links with the original floor covering.

No remnants of soft furnishing are evident. There is a suggestion of an earlier green wall colour as opposed to the predominant two-tone grey present, evident as a result of the removal of a notice board. The grey colour scheme possibly relates to the Army phase of usage.

A series of doors lead out to east to the central garden area. The west hut openings lead out to a verandah, which was originally partly an enclosed entry lobby leading to the cadet's bar and recreation

¹² No samples are available to determine the material. Figure 6.1 demonstrates the OTU tiling colour and pattern- tiles similar in appearance are intact in the hut at Wollongong.

area, thence discharging to a series of paths to the garden and the open ground (former the migrants' drying area) to the south.

While the greater portion of the south wall of the building is missing, with some framing exposed and unlined, a door is discernible at the south end of the building. A larger opening is also evident, however this is believed to be a later adaptation even after OUT, possibly for the aircraft restoration. This later opening is confirmed in the film "Silver City" where these buildings form a regular backdrop.

Remnants in the concrete slab immediately outside the south west corner of the building suggest a toilet was present. Aerial photos and drawings show a small building projecting from the south wall of the main SSAR hut.

The West Kitchen

The timber section of the building is largely intact externally, however some sections of its weatherboards have been removed, the roof has been opened up and is not weatherproof, the ceilings are missing, and much of the kitchen equipment has been removed, stolen or vandalised. Therefore, there is very little in the way of significant remnant fabric.

The area comprises a large open area, with the main kitchen area to the north of the former servery. Fifty percent of the servery wall is now missing. A long narrow room runs along the west side of the major space. It has a hatchway opening to the large hall area. The internal photo from the migrant era indicates a longer servery area, and shows no hatch, suggesting this was an adaptation for the OTU phase.



Figure 4.17: OTU servery, with dishwashing facilities in the kitchen beyond.
(Source – P Lofthouse)

To the extreme north east of the kitchen are three rooms. The centre appears to have been a cool room, the flanking rooms being a store room and an office. They appear to have been maintained in an original condition with no obvious signs of modification since construction. The areas are cluttered with washing equipment and what appears to be aircraft components in the two eastern rooms.

Comparative Analysis

There is a lack of information about semi-circular huts which is surprising due to their common occurrence on the Australian landscape. Semi-circular huts were commonly used on military bases, migrant centres, hospitals and educational institutions.¹³

The Standard SSAR hut is perhaps the best known of all semi-circular huts and the name bestowed generically, albeit incorrectly, on all semi-circular, prefabricated, corrugated iron huts. The Standard SSAR hut was designed in 1916 by the then Major (Lt. Col.) Peter Standard SSAR who came up with

¹³ Stuart, op. cit.

the idea of “making a portable hut”.¹⁴ The standard model was known as the Standard SSAR Bow Hut, 27 feet long, 16 feet wide and 8 feet high, but the design was never static and was adapted for use as churches, factories, houses and cinemas.¹⁵ Apart from Standard SSAR huts, other semi-circular huts present in Australia include the Romney hut, Quonset hut and Quonset warehouse (also known as a SSAR hut in Australia).¹⁶

SSAR huts have been identified at Villawood Detention Centre¹⁷, the former East Hills Migrant Barracks (demolished in late 2001)¹⁸, Mayfield Migrant Centre and on the East Campus of Wollongong University. Photographic evidence shows that the 7 large huts (now demolished) which were used at the riverside Naval Depot at Ermington were not SSAR huts.¹⁹



Figure 5.1: East Hills dining room, date unknown (now demolished)
(Source – I Stuart)



Figure 5.2: SSAR hut (half the length of the Scheyville SSAR huts) at University of Wollongong, East Campus, with Planetarium items in storage.
(Source – P Lofthouse)

The re-use and adaptation of military buildings for migrant camp purposes was a common occurrence throughout Australia after WW2. In the postwar immigration period over 34 migrant hostels were established in NSW, of which Scheyville was one.²⁰ At least one SSAR hut was used in a migrant

¹⁴ Fred McCosh, *Nissen of the Huts: A Biography of Lt Col Peter Nissen DSO*, 1997, p85 (State Library of NSW NG22.092/N726/1).

¹⁵ Ibid, p134.

¹⁶ Stuart, op. cit.

¹⁷ Tony Brassil, Senior Industrial Archaeologist, Godden Mackay Logan, to Rachel Lenehan, April 2002.

¹⁸ Stuart, op. cit.

¹⁹ *Ermington Naval Stores – Rezoning Proposal*, 2000.

²⁰ Migrant hostel were also referred to as immigration dependants' holding centres, migrant accommodation, migrant reception or training centres or migrant workers hostels and in NSW were located at Bathurst, Adamstown, Balgownie, Bankstown, Bradfield Park, Bennerong,

centre in Adelaide.²¹ The consistent element is that the relocated buildings were generally used in conjunction with new permanent structures.

As in the case of Scheyville, the SSAR huts at Villawood, East Hills, Mayfield and Wollongong were used as communal food preparation and dining/ recreation rooms. The timber buildings attached to the huts were set up as the kitchen areas with the hut structure providing the room required to accommodate enough chairs and tables to seat over 500 people. The SSAR huts were centrally located in the centres to provide a communal service hub.



Figure 5.4: Scheyville Holding Centre, 1997, after demolition of many huts, with the SSAR huts central to the layout. (Source – NPWS)

The Villawood Migrant Hostel (102671)²² and the Broughton Migrant Hostel (3373) are the only migrant centres listed on the Register of the National Estate for NSW. Other listings on the register for migrant centres include, the Bonegilla Migrant Centre (016157) in Victoria, and in Western Australia the Swanbourne Migrant Reception Centre (100637), Point Walter Migrant Reception Centre (100634) and the Graylands Migrant Reception and Training Centre (100635), now destroyed.

The use of the Scheyville SSAR huts for communal dining and recreational purposes continued throughout the OTU phase of occupation. With the closing of the OTU the SSAR huts fell into a period of disuse, intermittently used for storage by aviation clubs. This is demonstrative of the use or more precisely non-use, of SSAR huts with the closure of migrant centres. The Villawood hut for example, is currently not used except for occasional storage²³ while the Wollongong hut was used as a Planetarium until new premises were built, and is now used by the Planetarium for storage. Most have been demolished with the remaining examples (except Scheyville) under threat by community requirements for more residential development.



Burwood, Matraville, Cabramatta, Cronulla, Dundas, East Hills, Ermington, Goulbourn, Greta, Katoomba, Kingsgrove, Kyeemagh, Leeton, Lithgow, Mascot, Mayfield, Meadowbank, Nelson Bay, North Head, Orange, Port Kembla, Port Stephens, Randwick, St Marys, Scheyville, Schofields, Unanderra, Villawood, Wallerawang and Wallgrove.

²¹ Andrew Riley, migrant to Adelaide, to Pam Lofthouse, May 2002. Andrew was familiar with the term SAAR hut.

²² Part of the Villawood Migrant Centre known as the Westbridge Migrant Hostel is listed on the State Heritage Inventory, database number 1060203.

²³ Ursula Lang, Bankstown City Council, to Pam Lofthouse, June 2002.

Figure 5.5: Wollongong SSAR hut, with kitchen extension. Fitted out as a Planetarium but now used for storage (Source – P Lofthouse)

The Villawood SSAR hut is to become part of a Heritage Precinct, created by the Commonwealth Government outside the barbed wire of the Villawood Detention Centre. Although most of the original migrant centre on the site has been demolished, a few remaining smaller huts are to be relocated next to the SSAR hut, which will remain insitu. The SSAR hut at the East Hills Migrant Barracks was demolished 2001 following extensive heritage assessment. Wollongong University hopes to use the land on which the SSAR huts stands to expand its residential facilities (the purpose for which it purchased the migrant centre site in 1987). There is considerable local opposition to the demolition of the SSAR hut and two remaining Standard SSAR huts. The huts are built on a floodplain and were subject to severe flooding in 1997. The University has engaged Ian Stapleton to conduct a heritage assessment prior to any decision being made.

In comparison, Scheyville contains not one, but two intact examples of SSAR huts located in their original position, and with their original kitchen extensions. They are not subject to development pressures, being part of a National Park. Although mostly demolished, the positions of all the other buildings are clearly visible by reference to their remaining concrete slabs, providing an interpretation of the scale and operation of a migrant centre which is no longer available elsewhere within NSW.

APPENDIX 4

Birds, Mammals & Fish of Scheyville National Park

Source: NPWS

Birds

The national park provide valuable habitat within the local area, including large areas of vegetation communities which are now uncommon. A number of birds more commonly seen west of the Dividing Range have been recorded in the park. Birds are the most common native animal in both reserves, with 141 species (99 terrestrial and 42 wetland species) recorded within Scheyville National Park:

Longneck Lagoon provides important wetland habitat for waterbirds within the Hawkesbury area. The importance of Longneck and Pitt Town Lagoons is highlighted by their listing in the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 20 (Hawkesbury-Nepean) and on the Register of the National Estate. At least 42 water birds have been recorded on or around Longneck Lagoon and 73 water birds, including 26 species of waders, on and around Pitt Town Lagoon. More commonly sighted water birds on the lagoons include the dusky moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*), purple swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), white-faced heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae*), royal spoonbill (*Platalea regia*), Australian pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), black-fronted plover (*Charadrius melanops*), black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) and red-necked avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*). Two wetland birds, the black bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*) and the comb-crested jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*), both listed as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, have been recorded at Longneck Lagoon. Six wetland birds that are listed as vulnerable have been recorded in Pitt Town Nature Reserve. They are the comb-crested jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*), black-necked stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*), freckled duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*), painted snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*), Mongolian plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) and black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*). Among the many water birds using the lagoons are numerous seasonal migrants to the area.

Australia is signatory to a number of international treaties aimed at ensuring the protection of birds migrating to Australia from other countries. The Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and the China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), and treaties such as the Bonn Convention and the Ramsar Convention, provide a framework for inter-governmental cooperation in the protection and conservation of wetlands and migratory species. Seven species protected under these treaties have been recorded within Scheyville National Park and 19 species within Pitt Town Nature Reserve. The lagoons are important staging areas for migratory species such as the Mongolian plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Japanese snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), great egret (*Ardea alba*) and glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Woodland and Forest Communities: Many birds more typical of areas both coastal areas and west of the divide are found in the woodland and forest communities of Scheyville National Park. Egan et al. (1997) have noted a marked decrease in the numbers of some species since the 1960s, particularly the speckled warbler (*Sericornis sagittatus*), weebill (*Smicronis brevirostris*) brown treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus*), black-chinned honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*), jacky winter (*Microeca leucophaea*) and fuscous honeyeater (*Lichenostomus fuscus*). They also believe that some species once common in the area are now locally extinct, for example the diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*), zebra finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*), hooded robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), red-capped robin (*Petroica goodenovii*), scarlet robin (*Petroica multicolor*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) and black-eared cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx osculans*). Three birds listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act have been recorded within the woodland and forest units of Scheyville National Park. They are the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), both listed as vulnerable under the Act, and the endangered regent honeyeater (*Xanthomyza phrygia*).

Mammals

The only mammals commonly seen in Scheyville National Park are the sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) and brush-tailed possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). The little red flying fox (*Pteropus*

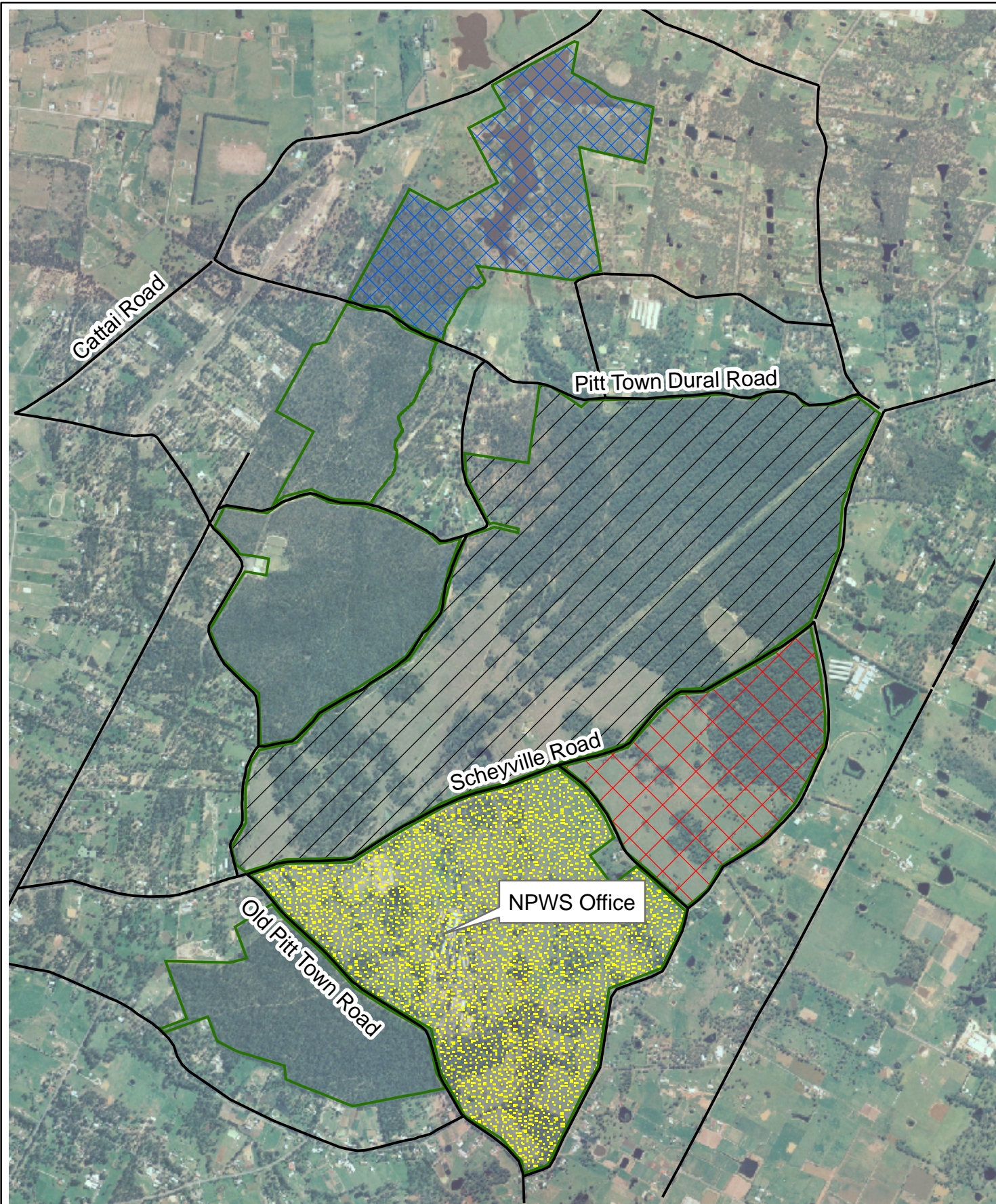
scapulatus) and insectivorous bats have also been recorded within the national park. Recent surveys have revealed the existence of the ground dwelling bush rat (*Rattus fuscipes*) along creek areas and the echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) throughout the woodland and forest areas. The absence of mature trees and shrubs excludes arboreal species, and lack of canopy and understorey makes the reserve unsuitable for small ground-dwelling species. Surveys in recent years have identified at least 20 reptile species throughout the national park. Commonly seen species include the long-necked tortoise (*Chelodina longicollis*), the blue tongue lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*) as well as the red-bellied black snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) and eastern brown snake (*Pseudechis textilis*). Other recorded species within the park include the lace monitor (*Varanus varius*), bearded dragon (*Pogona barbata*), wood gecko (*Diplodactylus vittatus*), eastern water dragon (*Physignathus lesuerii*), copper-tailed skink (*Ctenotus taeniolatus*), water skink (*Eulamprus quoyii*) and the red-throated skink (*Leiopisma platynotum*).

Frogs

Nine species of frog have been recorded in the park, with most concentrated around Longneck Lagoon. Frog species include the striped marsh frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), bleating tree frog (*Litoria dentata*) and common eastern toadlet (*Crinia signifera*). During favourable wet weather, frogs can also be observed in smaller wetlands throughout the cleared areas of the park.

Fish

Longneck Lagoon provides habitat for numerous native fish species. Fish within the lagoon include Australian bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*), sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), firetailed gudgeon (*Hypseleotris galii*), striped gudgeon (*Gobiomorphus australis*) and short-finned eels (*Anguilla australis*). Populations of native species have reduced considerably since European settlement, particularly with major decreases in local water quality. The population of bass and mullet, which return to the ocean environment as part of their breeding cycle, has been reduced by the partial damming of Longneck Lagoon along the Cattai Road as well as by competition from European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).



Scheyville National Park

Heritage Precincts

Legend

- Road
- Park Boundary
- Heritage Precinct**
 - Farm Precinct
 - Hut Precinct
 - Quarry Precinct
 - Sewerage Treatment Plant Precinct

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1:25,000

0 250 500 1,000
Meters

Prepared 15 Jan 2009
Projection: AGD1966 AMG Zone 56