

## **PART 2: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Figure 1.1. Location Plan of Bobbin Head, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (Source: Department of Environment and Conservation)



## 1.0 Introduction

Note: Volume 1, Part 2 Conservation Management Plan is structured to be a stand-alone document and should be read in conjunction with Volume 3, Appendix.

### 1.1 Background

In November 2005, the Parks and Wildlife Division (former National Parks and Wildlife Service) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) commissioned Conybeare Morrison International and Context Landscape Design to prepare a Masterplan incorporating a Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Management Plan for Bobbin Head, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

The key objectives of the Masterplan are to identify, direct and achieve long term conservation and management outcomes for Bobbin Head, to assist Department of Environment and Conservation to meet corporate objectives and statutory requirements; to ensure the balanced and compatible management of cultural and natural heritage values of the parklands; to consider the cultural significance of Bobbin Head as an individual place as well as being part of a broader suite of similar places managed by Department of Environment and Conservation and other land managers; to develop forward looking management policies within the context of legislative requirements, the Department of Environment and Conservation Management framework and stakeholder issues; and to give direction to the future uses for the parklands while protecting their significance.

The outcomes of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) are to support the long-term conservation of Bobbin Head within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park; to inform the Plan of Management for Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and to ensure best practice management of cultural heritage values.

### 1.2 Site Location

Refer to Figure 1.1

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is situated within the Sydney metropolitan area, approximately 20 kilometres north of the Sydney city centre. The park generally comprises the land east of the Sydney Newcastle Freeway (F3), south of the Hawkesbury River, west of Pittwater and north of Mona Vale Road. It also includes Barrenjoey Head on the eastern side of Pittwater. The park is bounded by the Local Government Areas of Hornsby to the southwest, Ku-ring-gai to the south east and Warringah to the west. Cowan Creek forms the boundary between the Parish of South Colah (west) and the Parish of Broken Bay (east).

The subject area of Bobbin Head is located within Cowan Creek, which adjoins the Hawkesbury River at Broken Bay. The peninsula known as Bobbin Head is located at the southern end of Cowan Creek, at the junction of Cowan Creek and Cockle Creek (also known as Cockle Creek). The study area comprises the reclaimed land located at the point of Bobbin Head and the reclaimed land located on the western side of Cockle Creek known as Orchard Park.

Bobbin Head is accessed by road from the south via Bobbin Head Road from Turramurra and Hornsby and from the south-western side via Ku-ring-gai Chase Road from Mt Colah. Access is also available via the water to the wharf located at Bobbin Head, with a ferry service being provided from Pittwater daily.

### **1.3 Methodology**

The methodology used in this Conservation Management Plan is in accordance with the principles and definitions as set out in the guidelines to the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance – The Burra Charter; J S Kerr's The Conservation Plan, the NSW Heritage Manual, and in accordance with the latest version of the NSW Heritage Office manual update, Assessing Heritage Significance (2001).

The historic outline contained in this report and within the Appendices provides sufficient background for an assessment of the place and relevant policy recommendations.

### **1.4 Authorship**

Lynette Gurr, Senior Built Heritage Specialist, and Kate Denny, Heritage Specialist, of Conybeare Morrison prepared the report. William Morrison of Conybeare Morrison was Project Director

### **1.5 Acknowledgements**

Conybeare Morrison would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations for their assistance during the preparation of the following Conservation Management Plan:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Ku-ring-gai Historical Society
- Ku-ring-gai Council Local History library
- Hornsby Council Local History library
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Vacluse House and the Historic Houses Trust
- Film and Radio Archives of Australia (Sydney office)

### **1.6 Limitations**

During the historic research process, gaps in the available resources were identified. In particular, landscape plans in relation to the original layout of Orchard Park were not able to be found. Detailed information relating to the alterations that have occurred to Bobbin Head under the period of management by National Parks and Wildlife Service was lacking and the exact locations, types and numbers of all built items were not able to be established.

## 2.0 Historic Overview

### 2.1 Introduction

The following historic overview addresses the development of Bobbin Head and the physical development of the parklands. This includes the sequence of reclamations and erection of seawalls, construction of roads and bridges, erection of buildings and structures, landscaping works and changes of use.

Based on primary and secondary resources, it is established that the recreational areas of Bobbin Head were built and established as a series of reclamation works over a period of over a hundred years. For ease of differentiating the various areas at Bobbin Head that underwent construction, history and use, the authors have identified five distinct sub-precincts which will be referred to throughout the following report. These sub-precincts are (in order of their historic development): Wharf Area, Orchard Park, Orchard Park South, Gibberagong Park and Gibberagong South.

Over time different names have been used for the roads, creeks and bays within the study area. The following table outlines some of these alternatives and itemises the use within this report:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Alternative Name</b>	<b>Name used in report</b>
Cockle Creek / Cowan Creek	Gibberagong Creek	Cockle Creek
Ku-ring-gai Chase Road	Colah Road, Mt Colah Road	Ku-ring-gai Chase Road
Bobbin Head Road	Biffeno Road, Farrar Avenue	Bobbin Head Road
Bobbin Head boatshed	Shaw's, Sainty's & Percival's	Bobbin Head boatshed
The Marina	Halvorsens	The Marina
Ku-ring-gai Chase	Ku-ring-gai Chase	Ku-ring-gai Chase
Apple Tree Bay	Burnside	Apple Tree Bay
Apple Tree Creek	Apple Tree Bay	Apple Tree Creek
Apple Tree Flat	Apple Tree Flat	Apple Tree Flat

*Table 2.1.*

## 2.2 Original Owners

Early human occupation of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is evidenced by the large and diverse number of Aboriginal archaeological sites throughout Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The numerous shell middens, rock shelters, engravings and grinding grooves located near the Bobbin Head attests the long-term Aboriginal occupation of the region. This archaeological record provides evidence of Aboriginal life including movement and occupation patterns, hunting and collecting of resources, ceremonial practices and material culture, prior to the arrival of Europeans. This evidence, combined with the documentary records produced from the time of European contact in the Sydney region, provides important information on the Aboriginal history of the area known as Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

Although there is some confusion concerning the pre-European tribal organisation around Sydney, the Guringai tribe is believed to have inhabited the coastal area from Lake Macquarie to Botany Bay.<sup>1</sup> The Guringai tribe consisted of a number of clans. Early historical records indicate considerable group movement and interaction along the coast. This occurred through daily and seasonal activities of food gathering and hunting, religious events such as initiation ceremonies, and more hostile associations through fighting and conflict.

Prior to European contact the Guringai groups subsisted largely on coastal resources, including fish and shell fish. Historical records indicate that the diet was also supplemented by various vegetable foods, macropods, birds, possums and grubs.<sup>2</sup> However, the many shell middens located along the foreshore and creeks throughout Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park are testimony to the important role that marine foods played in the traditional Aboriginal subsistence economy.

Historical observations of traditional Guringai food gathering strategies demonstrate that there was a basic division of labour between men fishing with spears and women using hooks and lines and collecting shell fish.<sup>3</sup> Spears were used for hunting and fighting, and were made from the shafts of grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea sp.*). Spears were fitted with various barbs made from stone, shell or hardwood, secured by resin obtained from the base of grass trees. The *Xanthorrhoea* species is still very prevalent throughout Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and is culturally significant to the local Aboriginal community. Fish hooks made from Turban shells (*Turbo torquata*) were fashioned by women, and were fastened to a line made out of fibrous bark.<sup>4</sup> Fishing from canoes was a common daily activity. Canoes were made from the bark of several different tree species, and were large enough (up to 6 meters in length) to transport as many as six people.<sup>5</sup>

The arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 signalled the beginning of major changes to the traditional life of the original occupants of the Sydney region. Within six weeks of the arrival of the First Fleet in Port Jackson, Governor Phillip was exploring Broken Bay. On 5 March 1788 he camped at Resolute Bay near West Head. Phillip commented on the friendliness of the Aboriginal people he encountered on the trip. However, one year later, when he again visited Broken Bay, all except those too sick with smallpox fled from him. By 1790, over half of the Guringai population had died of smallpox and by the 1840s most of the Aboriginal people had disappeared from the Pittwater area, as their traditional land was taken over by white settlers.<sup>6</sup>

Although earliest impacts were felt by Aboriginal communities living around Port Jackson and Botany Bay, by the early 19th century the Guringai territory was being gazetted and occupied by European settlers. Early road construction and logging also contributed to the reduction of traditional Aboriginal territories and resources. Due to the affects of smallpox and other introduced diseases, only a small number of Aboriginals were observed in the Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay areas in the 1850s.<sup>7</sup> This suggests a considerable reduction in the size of the Aboriginal population of the Hawkesbury River and its southern tributaries, which prior to 1788 is estimated at around two hundred.<sup>8</sup>

**(National Theme: Peopling the Nation; State Theme: Aboriginal Culture)**

<sup>1</sup> Bradney R et al, 1984; An Archaeological Survey of Cotton Tree Bay, unpublished report to NSW NPWS, p. 16

<sup>2</sup> Ross A, 1976; Inter-tribal Contacts: What the First Fleet Saw, unpublished thesis, University of Sydney, p. 24

<sup>3</sup> Ross A, 1976; p.48

<sup>4</sup> Turbet P, 2001; The Aborigines of the Sydney District before 1788, Kangaroo Press, East Roseville, p.49

<sup>5</sup> Turbet P, 2001; p.52

<sup>6</sup> NSW NPWS, 2002; Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park & Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves, Plan of Management, p.22

<sup>7</sup> Bradney R, et al, 1984; p.19

<sup>8</sup> Turbet P, 2001; p.26



Figure 2.1. Chart of Broken Bay and the Hawkesbury River as drawn by John Hunter 1789 (Source: Powell J & Banks L, 1990; Hawkesbury River History)

## 2.3 Early Exploration and Development of the Region

Within six weeks of the First Fleets arrival in Port Jackson in 1788, Governor Phillip set out for Broken Bay, travelling from Manly Cove to Pittwater in search of fresh water and suitable farming lands to sustain the new colony. Starting out on 2 March 1788, Governor Phillip entered Broken Bay and spent the first evening afloat behind a 'rocky point in the north-west part of the bay, as the natives, though very friendly appeared to be numerous'.<sup>9</sup> The following day Phillip crossed the shallow bar and examined the Brisbane Waters (called by Phillip the North West Arm) and on his return examined Cowan Creek (named South West Arm). On his way back to Port Jackson he entered what he described as 'the finest piece of water I ever saw, and which I honoured with the name of Pitt Water' (after William Pitt the Younger, Prime Minister of England).<sup>10</sup>

Two subsequent excursions followed: the first occurring more than twelve months later and the second immediately following in July 1789. It is during this second excursion which reached the junction of the Grose and Hawkesbury Rivers that Phillip decided to name the river the Hawkesbury in honour of Charles Jenkinson, first Earl of Liverpool, Baron Hawkesbury and President of the Board of Trade.<sup>11</sup> It was during this third expedition that the first official recording of Cowan Creek (South West Arm) appears on a map drawn by John Hunter in 1789 depicting Broken Bay and the Hawkesbury River (refer to Figure 2.1).

**(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Exploration)**

### 2.3.1 Land Grants

Only small sections of the area now encompassed by Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park were settled by Europeans, as the land was seen as barren, inaccessible and unsuited to agricultural pursuits. The majority of grants were located in the Pittwater area. Regardless, certain areas of land were occupied and those land grants included Scotland Island which was granted to Andrew Thompson in 1810 and used for the extraction of salt<sup>12</sup>; approximately 100 acres of land was granted to James Terry at Cottage Point in the mid 1880s; 640 acres to William Lawson (renowned for his part in finding a way over the Blue Mountains) at West Head in 1834<sup>13</sup>; and Peter Duffy (Duffy's Forest is named after him) obtained scattered grants and established a wharf on the upper reaches of Cowan Creek for the transportation of logs (refer to Figure 2.2). Similarly, Edward Windybank a boat builder who arrived in 1887 lived in Waratah Bay (north of Bobbin Head) and established a boatshed. A crown grant of 20 hectares was made to Robert Mackintosh in 1835 at The Basin, two parcels of land of 16 hectares at Little Mackerel Beach (Currawong) and 24 hectares covering most of Great Mackerel Beach were granted to Martin Burke in 1835 and a further 20 hectares at Soldiers Point were granted to John Andrews in 1842.<sup>14</sup>

**(National Theme: Building Settlements; State Theme: Land Tenure)**

### 2.3.2 Smuggling

Between the 1790s and the 1840s, Pittwater was a haven for escaped convicts. They made their way there by foot from Sydney and Parramatta in the hope of seizing a brig or schooner anchored in Broken Bay. While they waited they began bushranging, stealing from poor settlers who were frequently ex-convicts themselves. Smuggling of brandy and rum and the use of illicit stills in Pittwater were also a problem to the authorities. In 1807, 1200 gallons of spirits were landed at Broken Bay from the American ship *Jenny*. In 1842, a Pittwater resident was caught with 107 quarter casks of brandy and 29 puncheons of rum and in the same year the brandy and rum cargo of the *Fair Barbarian* was found hidden in Cowan Creek.<sup>15</sup>

**(National Theme: Peopling the Nation; State Theme: Convict Origins)**

### 2.3.3 Timber Getting

As the land around Cowan Creek was virtually inaccessible by land for development, industries which established themselves in the area were primarily water-based. Early industry in the region included boat building and timber getting. The headwaters of Berowra and Cowan Creeks within the Hawkesbury River catchment yielded high quality timber. Governor Hunter was concerned that although there seemed to be vast amounts of forested land, high quality timber was scarce. In December 1795 he gave out the general order that 'no timber whatsoever be cut down on ground which is not marked out or allotted to individuals on either of the banks or creeks of the [Hawkesbury] river'.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Government Tourist Bureau, 1909; Tourists handbook of the Hawkesbury River and North Coast Lake District, p.58

<sup>10</sup> Govt. Tourist Bureau, 1909; p.58

<sup>11</sup> Govt. Tourist Bureau, 1909; p.66

<sup>12</sup> Jehne R, 1996; p.12

<sup>13</sup> Stanley H, 2001; History of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, unpublished report, p.1.

<sup>14</sup> Jehne R, 1996; p.12

<sup>15</sup> Jehne R, 1996; p.12

<sup>16</sup> Powell J & Banks L (eds.), 1990; Hawkesbury River History, Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society, P52



P1. BBQ at Ku-ring-gai Chase (Source: NPWS Archives)



Figure 2.2. Parish of Broken Bay 1895 showing Duffy's land grants and location of Duffy's wharf. Bobbin Head and Cackle (Gibberagong) Creek is shown left of frame (Source: Dept. of Lands/ ID No. 14012501)

Around 1796 a sawyer's camp was established on the Hawkesbury River below Portland Head, on Sawyers (Cambridge) Reach, which serviced the government with high quality logs. However, it was not long before the sawyers and settlers were exploiting the system and the timber cut from Crown Land was being marketed. In April 1802, Governor King noted that 'some of the settlers at the Hawkesbury are making a traffic of the cedar growing on or about that river' and he issued a general order that strictly forbade any cedar being cut down without his permission. By this time however, large stands of cedar had been found in the Hunter River area and by 1803 most cargoes of cedar arriving in Sydney were from there.<sup>17</sup>

Attention transferred from the cedar to other valuable timbers (blue gums, blackbutts, mahoganies and stringybarks) present in the Hawkesbury to ensure the continuation of the industry in the region. From about 1823, timber getters were busy on Cowan Creek where there was excellent blue gum and soon afterwards Mangrove Creek forests were exploited for their stringybark and blackbutt.<sup>18</sup>

***(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Forestry)***

### **2.3.4 Boats and Boat Building**

Although boats were required for communication and for transporting crops from the Hawkesbury to Sydney there were heavy restrictions placed on building boats from the earliest times because of repeated attempts by convicts to seize vessels and escape in them. The first records of a private boat bringing corn from the Hawkesbury River were in October 1797, and it was in the same month that Governor Hunter forbade the building of any boats whatsoever for private use. Hunter also informed boat owners (particularly those with craft capable of travelling between the Hawkesbury and Sydney) that their boats had to be properly secured at night, if this was not done they would be 'immediately scuttled or sunk, or laid on shore and burnt' and any boats not registered would also be destroyed.<sup>19</sup>

These harsh regulations were eventually eased, as indicated by the number of private boats built and registered in the first few years of the 1800s. Ship builders on the Hawkesbury included John Grono, Jonathan Griffiths, Charles Beasley and James Webb in the early days and later John and Alexander Books and William Grono on the upper river reaches. George Peat, John Laughton, the Greentree brothers and Burton Crossland and his sons amongst others built vessels along the lower river.<sup>20</sup>

***(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Fishing)***

### **2.3.5 Recreation – late 1800s**

From its lawless days of bushranging and rum smuggling through its industrial years as a source of timber and boat building, the Hawkesbury River region emerged in the late nineteenth century as a genteel playground for the wealthy. This was largely due to improved transport in the area and the economic boom of the 1880s brought dramatic changes. In 1879, Charles Jeannerett built a pier at Newport and a year later a coach service between Manly and Newport opened the gate for tourism in Pittwater. The area known as Inner Basin became a favourite spot for camping and picnicking. In 1880, a bridge was built across Narrabeen Lagoon, a hotel opened in Newport and in 1882 a guesthouse opened its doors. Day steamer excursions to Newport began and wharves were constructed at Bayview, Church Point, Newport and Careel Bay giving pleasure seekers setting off points from which to explore the beauty of Pittwater.<sup>21</sup>

***(National Theme: Cultural Development; State Theme: Leisure)***

### **2.3.6 Transport Routes**

In the 1830s George Peat carved out a track between Old Berowra Road and the Hawkesbury River at Peats Ferry (now the Old Pacific Highway), thus opening up the western side of the Chase for development. The opening of the northern railway line further led to the expansion of the region along the western boundary of the national park. In 1886 the Hornsby, Epping, Beecroft and Thornleigh Railway Stations opened, followed in 1887 by the first Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge opening at Brooklyn and railway stations opening at Pennant Hills, Berowra, Hawkesbury River (Flat Rock) and Mt Colah. In 1890 the Cowan railway opened and was known as Cowan Creek.<sup>22</sup>

***(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Transport)***

<sup>17</sup> Powell J & Banks L (eds.), 1990; p.59

<sup>18</sup> Powell J & Banks L (eds.), 1990; p.60

<sup>19</sup> Powell L & Banks J (eds.), 1990; p.61

<sup>20</sup> Powell L & Banks J (eds.), 1990; p.61

<sup>21</sup> Jehne R, 1996; p.13

<sup>22</sup> History of Hornsby Shire, cited at [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au) (downloaded January 2006)



P2. Portrait of Eccleston Frederick Du Faur (Source NPWS Archives)

## 2.4 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

### 2.4.1 Eccleston Du Faur

The establishment of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is the result of the efforts of a single man, Mr Eccleston Fredric Du Faur. Du Faur, following a number of years of campaigning, had managed to convince the NSW government to establish a second National Park for the residents of Sydney. Du Faur dedicated a large amount of his time to ensure its viability and continued success through the introduction of roads and recreation areas within the Chase.

Eccleston Fredric Du Faur (refer to P2) first became interested in the environment of the Hawkesbury River catchment in 1888 when he relocated from the western suburbs of Sydney to Eastern Road in the area now known as Turramurra, building his family home 'Pibrac' (now located within the grounds of the Lady Davidson Hospital, Bobbin Head Road). During his time at 'Pibrac' and through his ramblings in the rugged country fronting the Hawkesbury River and Cowan Creek, Du Faur conceived of the idea of inducing the Government to establish a National Park in the area.

Born in London in 1832, Du Faur arrived in Melbourne in February 1853 and worked his way from Bendigo to Sydney, where he joined the Railway Department. Returning to London in 1856 to settle business following the death of his father, Du Faur travelled the Continent, returning to Sydney in July 1863 where he joined the Surveyor-General's Office. Transferring to the Crown Lands Office in 1866, he initiated the systematic surveying and mapping of pastoral runs available for selection.<sup>23</sup>

Du Faur established and managed a pastoralist's agency between the years 1881 to 1901. He was selected as a fellow of the Royal Society of NSW in 1873 and became chairman of its geographical section. In 1874, he helped to finance the last expedition under Andrew Hume to ascertain the fate of Ludwig Leichhardt and in 1875 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London. He also shared in equipping a party under Wilfred Powell for exploration in New Britain (New Guinea) in 1875 and for the expedition under Captain H C Everill to the Fly River, New Guinea in 1885.

Suggesting that the Australian climate was affected by weather conditions in the Antarctic and hoping that the colonies would share in exploration there, Du Faur initiated interest in polar exploration. Founding the Geographical Society of Australia in 1883, he revived the subject and in a paper to the society in 1892 he suggested that fifty adventurous men should charter a steamer and tour in Antarctic waters in the Christmas holidays. However, it was not until 1901 when Scott, Shackleton and others joined the 'polar steeplechase' and an Australian Association, with Du Faur on its committee began raising funds in support of Mawson's expedition.<sup>24</sup>

In December 1874, Du Faur was chosen as an observer of the transit of Venus at the township of Woodford in the Blue Mountains and impressed by the scenery and vegetation bought land at Mount Wilson. Du Faur made many excursions in the river valleys and was active in developing other beauty spots in the Blue Mountains. His most outstanding work however was in the art movement in Sydney. As an original member of the NSW Academy of Art in 1871, he joined its council in 1873 and was honorary secretary and treasurer until 1881. When the National Art Gallery was established in 1876 he was appointed one of the five trustees on its board and acted as secretary and treasurer until 1886 serving as president until 1892-1915.<sup>25</sup>

In 1866, Du Faur married Augusta Louisa (nee Crummer) who died the following year. Du Faur married again in 1878 to Blanche Mary Elizabeth (daughter of Professor John Woolley) and together they had four children. Eccleston du Faur died at Turramurra on 24 April 1915 and was buried at Gordon. His name is commemorated by the Du Faur Rocks at Mount Wilson and at the entrance gates to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park at Turramurra.<sup>26</sup>

**(National Theme: Phases of Life; State Theme: Persons)**

<sup>23</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 4: 1851-1890, 1972, Melbourne University Press; p.108

<sup>24</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 4: 1851-1890, 1972; p.108

<sup>25</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 4: 1851-1890, 1972; p.109

<sup>26</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 4: 1851-1890, 1972; p.109

#### 2.4.2 National Park for North Sydney

Du Faur's initial efforts in establishing a National Park in the North Sydney area did not meet with success and in 1891 he was informed by the Minister for Lands, the Honourable Henry Copeland that the government did not propose establishing any further parks around Sydney as the National Park (the Royal National Park located to the south of Sydney) had already been dedicated and there were unlimited areas of vacant Crown land around Sydney for public use.<sup>27</sup> Du Faur was not deterred and in October 1892 he wrote to the Minister of Lands:

In the interest of this rapidly increasing neighbourhood, and of the inhabitants of North Shore generally, including those between Ryde and Hornsby, I have the honor [sic] to suggest the advisability of the dedication of the waters of Cowan Creek, and such lands adjacent to same, as your professional officers may recommend, as a national park for North Sydney. I think that I may safely state that these waters may claim to be of greater interest than those of Port Hacking; and, while the distance of the latter render them practically inaccessible to the population referred to, the former are within an hour's drive from at least four of the stations on the North Shore and Hawkesbury railways, namely Gordon, Pymble, Turramurra and Berowra.<sup>28</sup>

Du Faur persisted and in 1892 invited the then Governor, the Earl of Jersey to a picnic at the head of Cowan Creek. The Earl must have been impressed by what he saw, since he apparently used his influence with the Minister of Lands, Henry Copeland, to have 14,200 hectares dedicated as a reserve.<sup>29</sup> However it was not until 14 December 1894 that the park was gazetted (total area 13,500 hectares) and placed under the control of 7 trustees, with Henry Copeland as president and Du Faur its managing director. Initial discussions in 1894 regarding the name of the proposed national park included the suggestion of 'Federal' Park. Du Faur did not support this suggestion, proposing instead 'Hawkesbury, Cowan Park, North Sydney Park, Berowra: as preferable: or best still Cammara Park'.<sup>30</sup> The final decision fell to Copeland who wrote in May 1894:

In my previous minute I suggest the name of 'Federal Park' for this reservation but this was merely a tentative idea until I had an opportunity of searching for a better and, if possible, an Aboriginal name if one of a euphonious sound and applicable to the locality could be found. In Threlkeld's work on the Australian language, edited by John Fraser, I find a reference to the great tribe of the Kuringgai (evidently sounded Ku-ring-gai) which, it appears, inhabited the coastal district from the Macleay on the north to Bulli on the south and extending inland to the foot of the coarse range which includes the land in question. There is a genuine Aboriginal ring about this word and, as it is hitherto (so far as I know) unappropriated, I think no better name could be found for commemoration as doubtless the tributaries of the Hawkesbury would be favourite fishing and hunting grounds for this vanished race....

In adopting a native name for this reserve I think it better to avoid the adjunct 'park' as not being sufficiently suggestive of the habits of the people whose history has become obliterated and whose tribal name only is sought to be perpetuated. The word 'park' clearly signifies enclosed land, whereas these lands would form part of the happy hunting grounds of the tribe where they could roam without let or hindrance in pursuit of game which would at that time be reasonably plentiful...forest, chase and park are all used technically to denote habitations for beasts to be hunted. Forests and chases lie open; parks are enclosed. I, therefore, propose to designate this reserve as the Ku-ring-gai Chase.<sup>31</sup>

***(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Environment - Cultural Landscape)***

<sup>27</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.2

<sup>28</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.2

<sup>29</sup> Jehne R, 1996; p.16

<sup>30</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.3

<sup>31</sup> Thorne L G, 1968; North Shore, Sydney from 1788 to today, Angus and Robertson Pty Ltd, p.204



### 2.4.3 Conservation of the Region

From Du Faur's initial concept, the conservation of the natural resources of the area was of primary concern and instrumental in establishing the Trust. As Du Faur stated at the time; '[a] further important advantage in the appointment of such a trust would be that steps could be taken to prevent the reckless destruction of native flowers, eg. The Rock Lily, formerly so abundant, is becoming scarcer every year and must soon become extinct if not to some extent protected'.<sup>32</sup> In the public mind the main purpose of a park such as Ku-ring-gai was for public recreation. However, the need to conserve was foremost in Du Faur's mind and was one of his main reasons for recommending the dedication of the Chase so that some control could be exercised over many people who were using the area for hunting, flower stealing, taking of timber and other inappropriate pursuits. Du Faur felt so strongly about this issue that in December 1894, merely days after the gazettal of the park, he wrote a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald outlining his concerns regarding the loss of resources:

During that interval of over 20 months wholesale degradations had been committed, not by the tourist but for trade purposes, which left the foreshores for miles denuded of the special vegetation which had made them attractive in former years - the last tree ferns had been cut down, the rock lilies almost extirpated (the cutting of their flowers did no permanent harm, but almost every accessible plant had been torn away by the roots), and hundreds of Christmas bush trees of 50 years growth and upwards had been felled, merely to lop off the top branches for decoration of the butcher's shops, &c., in Sydney. The removal of a few cartloads or boatloads of such vegetation each year would not have done any irremediable damage, but many of the depredators made a practice of camping on the creek for a week or two before Christmas and ruthlessly destroying everything they could find in accessible places, which they did not want for themselves, in order that others might not join in their harvest and cheapen the market against them at Christmas time.<sup>33</sup>

Following the formal granting of the land on 8 November 1900 the conservation of the place became formalised through the inclusion of the following general by-laws of the Trust:

9. No person shall, without the permission of the Trustees, cut, remove or deface any rocks, soil, trees, shrubs, ferns, palms, plants, sets, tables, gates, posts, fences, tanks, vessels, buildings, wharves, jetties, or notices, or write there on, or shall affix any bill or stencil marks to any rock, trees, seat, tables, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, railing, or to any vessel, building, wharf, jetty, or other erection within the Chase.

10. No person, unless authorised by the Trustees, shall deface or remove any aboriginal drawings or chippings on rocks, dig up or remove any banks of shells and refuse (presumably aboriginal kitchen middens) in search of skulls, bones, or other aboriginal remains.

14. No person, unless authorised by the Trustees, shall be allowed to hunt or disturb the native or introduced birds, or animals in the Chase.<sup>34</sup>

Policing of the by-laws and the expectations of the trustees pre dated the formal granting of the land and establishment of the Trust. In 1894, Du Faur includes in his letter to the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald the following warnings to the general public:

Full arrangements having been made, in anticipation, linen posters of notice of bylaws, &c., were delivered the same evening at a distant camp at Cowan Creek, where two men had been retained to post them along the foreshores of the Chase on Saturday....this morning a strong body of special constables, under the authority and instructions of the trustees and the guidance of the local constable commence a daily patrol in a steam launch from the head of Cowan Creek down to the Hawkesbury. Under such prompt and repressive measures the trustees feel confident that they will be able to put a stop to any piratical practices on the Chase during this season; and that if the necessary support is afforded them by the Government, and the moral support of the general public is on their side, such practices will become impossible for the future; and that both the flora and fauna of this large tract of country, abutting on the 10 mile circuit of Sydney, will be protected for future generations in Kuringgai Chase, although probably they will have utterly disappeared from most other places.<sup>35</sup>

***(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Environment - Cultural Landscape)***

<sup>32</sup> Thorne L.G., 1968; p.204

<sup>33</sup> Du Faur E, letter to the editor, Sydney Morning Herald, 17 December 1894; cited in Mitchell Library newspaper cuttings, Vol. 78

<sup>34</sup> Land Grant 1900/376, Vol.1337 Fol.72

<sup>35</sup> Du Faur E, letter to the editor, Sydney Morning Herald, 17 December 1894



P3. The Trust's house boat in Cowan Creek (Source: State Library NSW/ Cat No. a116504)

## 2.5 Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust

Rather than falling under the control of the government direct, or of Mr Du Faur as an individual, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park was managed from its inception under a similar arrangement as the Royal National Park - under the guidance of a board of trustees. The first meeting of the Trustees was held on 25 July 1894, with the Honourable Henry Copeland being elected President and Mr T A Dibbs, Vice President. The seven trustees at the inception of the park were: H Copeland, J De Villiers Lamb, the Hon. J P Abbot, the Hon R H D White, the Hon W J Lyne, T A Dibbs and E Du Faur.

During the first meeting it was noted that it was 'extremely desirable that a good road access to the Reserve from Turramurra Railway Station should be provided the present road being a bad one'. In addition, resolutions were passed that the 'Fisheries Commissioners be written to asking that the foreshores of the Reserve be made Oyster reserves and that the main Bays be closed against net fishing'.<sup>36</sup> At the following two meetings Du Faur submitted numerous reports together with suggestion as to the course of future actions, including a proposal to divide the Chase into a number of sections.<sup>37</sup>

Over the first few months of its existence the Trust met at regular intervals and Du Faur accepted the mantle of Managing Trustee and became almost solely responsible for the day-to-day management and supervision of work. The Managing Trustee carried out considerable exploration (all survey work), laid out and supervised the construction of paths and roads, supervised improvements generally, prepared numerous plans, carried out extensive correspondence and account keeping, and generally controlled and supervised the estate.<sup>38</sup>

By 1897, an increased number of Trustees was found to be needed with Du Faur bringing forward the question of electing additional Local Trustees. Du Faur pointed out that during the first 6 months of 1897 he had driven out on services on 22 Saturdays out of 26, covering 13 miles each occasion and found this too great a tax on his time and strength. Du Faur stated that it was absolutely necessary that a local resident accustomed to frequent the 'Chase' be elected to share the work load. As a result Jacob Garrard was appointed in 1898 with an additional three trustees appointed in 1900.<sup>39</sup>

During the period 1894 to 1967 the Managing Trustees of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust were as follows: Eccleston Du Faur (1894-1904), Jacob Gerrard (1905-1927), Robert Hollis (1927-1932), Hon R B Orchard (1932-1941), W Hermon Slade (1942-1947), E H Farrar (1947-1948), Colin C Burnside (1948-1954), W E Dickinson (1954-1963) and E G Wright (1963-1967).

**(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration)**

### 2.5.1 Eccleston Du Faur (1894- 1904)

Under Du Faur's management, the formative years of the Trust involved much time and finances being expended on improving access tracks throughout the park. Primarily this involved the construction of a road from the southern boundary of the 'Chase' at Turramurra to Bobbin Head.

In early 1898, the Trust decided that it needed accommodation in the 'Chase' if effective management was to be attained and decided to obtain a suitable pontoon and to construct a houseboat (refer to P3). A pontoon was purchased for £150 and following the completion of the houseboat in February 1899 Du Faur obtained permission to acquire furniture and fittings to accommodate 6 people. The houseboat was moored in Ku-ring-gai Bay (north of Apple Tree Bay on the eastern bank of Cowan Creek) and its final cost was approximated at £500. Receiving its first occupation in Easter 1899, the houseboat received extensive usage and many citizens were entertained by the Trustees. Major repairs were undertaken to the houseboat in 1960 and the boat finally sank at its moorings in 1964 and was never replaced.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Webb J, 2004; Eccleston Du Faur: Man of Vision, Deerrubbin Press, Sydney, p.39

<sup>37</sup> Webb J, 2004; p.39

<sup>38</sup> Thorne L G, 1968; p.205

<sup>39</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.6

<sup>40</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.8

In 1900 additional land at Towlers Bay (Pittwater) was obtained by the Trust and added to the Chase lands<sup>41</sup> and action was put in place by the Trustees in obtaining control of the already operating boatsheds within the 'Chase'. These were Windybank's at Waratah Bay, Rhode's at Jerusalem Bay and Shaw's at Bobbin Head. Rentals and conditions were determined by the Trust, although some resistance was put forward by the occupiers.<sup>42</sup>

At a meeting on 19th February 1904, Du Faur submitted a letter tendering his resignation as a Trustee. At the time the Trust passed the following resolution:

The Trustees note with regret the resignation of their colleague Mr Du Faur and wish to record their appreciation of his generous services in connection with the Chase and the public spirit that has prompted him to act for so many years as the Managing Trustee.<sup>43</sup>

In 1953, Memorial Gates were constructed and erected in Du Faur's honour at the Turramurra entrance to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The gates were unveiled in a ceremony on 17 October 1953 by one of Du Faur's sons, Guy Du Faur.

***(National Theme: Marking the Phases of Life; State Theme: Persons)***

### **2.5.2 Honourable Jacob Garrard (1905-1927)**

The period of Garrard's role as Managing Trustee of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust has been referred to as the period of consolidation. Garrard followed the example of his predecessor, Du Faur, and spent a large amount of time on Trust affairs. He undertook frequent inspections of the 'Chase' (many on foot even in his latter years). Being imbued with the ideals of the National Park management, Garrard at all times endeavoured to discourage inappropriate usage. This included additional structures being constructed within the park boundaries. In 1921, following an inspection of the 'Chase', Garrard stated:

Buildings along the river and permissive occupancies are a blot on the Park and should be a warning to use against allowing such.<sup>44</sup>

Trust policy during Garrard's twenty two year period aimed mainly at providing facilities to enable better access and enjoyment for the visiting public. Government subsidies were uniform year to year, progressively increasing from £1000 in 1908 to £1,950 in 1926-27. Consistency in finance enabled the Trust to place from year to year the bulk of expenditure in the provision of paths, roads, jetties, picnic shelters, road improvements and water supplies.

From the initiation of the Trust in 1894 it had been the intention of the Trustees to create a deer park along the lines of the one already established at the (Royal) National Park. This was a project sponsored particularly by Henry Copeland, the Trust President. In September 1894, Du Faur had inspected the Central Section and reported that a deer park could be established in this area:

On a less pretentious scale (the National Park was content with 160 acres) which could be securely fenced...and be under proper supervision until the District becomes more civilised.<sup>45</sup>

The fencing of an area in the vicinity of Smiths Creek close to the head of Cowan Creek was completed in 1907. However, difficulty was experienced in obtaining animals for the enclosure. At a meeting in November 1907 it was resolved that dingo trail and strychnine baits be laid for dingos and that efforts to secure wallaroos and emus had proved unsuccessful. During 1914 and 1915, some emus and kangaroos were given to the Trust and placed inside the enclosure.<sup>46</sup> The Trust considered wallabies and rock wallabies more suitable to the environment and believed that the existing population would increase further if it were possible to exterminate the dingos from the 'Chase'.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.8

<sup>42</sup> Ku ring gai Chase Trust Minutes, 7 March 1900

<sup>43</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.10

<sup>44</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.11

<sup>45</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.14

<sup>46</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.14

<sup>47</sup> Stanley H,2001; p.15

In 1909 the Trust conceived of the idea of seeking Government approval and the provision of funds for the construction of a tramline from Turrumurra Station to Bobbin Head. Surveys and inspections were carried out by the Public Works Department and a suitable route for the track obtained, where it was proposed the track would traverse the public roads until it reached the 'Chase' boundary then descend to the water by the valley on the west of the present driving road.<sup>48</sup> The construction of the tramway was postponed by the Public Works Department to make way for more urgent work and with the advent of World War I and the increasing use of the motor car, the proposal was never revived.

By 1925 under the management of Mr J Garrard, the Chase consisted of:

The area of 38,000 with four score miles of water frontage extending from the Hawkesbury Bridge round Cowan Creek to Church Point at Pittwater, represented a huge task to efficiently manage on £1750 per annum.

The Chase was surrounded by three populous Shires: Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Warringah, while the activities of the Trust included the maintenance of 10 wharves and Jetties, 4 Boat Sheds, 3 Workshops, 8 Shelter Sheds, 3 Bathing Enclosures with Sheds, 2 Bridges (Berowra and Gibberagong), 1 Houseboat, 6 cottages, 8 boats, 1 punt, 2 motor launches, 3 reservoirs, 8 miles of fencing, 71/2 miles of driving road with 2 rises of 600 feet each, 25 miles of tacks and 74 miles of water front to patrol.<sup>49</sup>

Jacob Garrard was born in England in 1846 and migrated initially to New Zealand at the age of 13, arriving in Australia in 1861, working as a ships engineer. He eventually became a prominent trade unionist and in 1885 was responsible for introducing a public holiday to celebrate the objective of an 8 hour working day in NSW. Garrard entered into the NSW parliament in 1880 and ultimately held the portfolios of Education and Labour and Industry. From 1899 to 1912 he was a member of the Water and Sewerage Board and was its president from 1899 to 1904. Garrard was appointed Trustee of Ku-ring-gai Chase in 1898 and served as its President from 1900 to 1927, Vice President from 1927 to 1931 and Managing Trustee during the years 1905 to 1927. Garrard died in 1931 whilst serving as Vice President.<sup>50</sup>

***(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration)***

### **2.5.3 Honourable Robert Hollis (1927- 1932)**

Robert Hollis was appointed to the Trust in 1903 and was one of the few Trustees in the early years who regularly attended, being of considerable assistance to Garrard in the management of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. He was appointed President and Managing Trustee in 1927 at the age of 76. Whilst not physically capable of performing inspections, he was very conscientious in his duties and resigned the presidency in 1932. He continued to serve as a Trustee with regular attendances at meetings until his death in 1937.<sup>51</sup>

Hollis continued the policy of providing additional facilities for the public. Visitation was increasing and the need to provide for the increased numbers presented a continuing problem to the Trustees, particularly as it was difficult to secure extra finance during the Great Depression. In addition, during Hollis' term an inordinate amount of damage to assets occurred through bad weather, consequently development was hampered by the need to repair and restore.<sup>52</sup> Improvements undertaken included works to the water supplies, toilet facilities, roads and paths etc. Work was conducted largely with the use of unemployment relief workers with finance provided by the Department of Labour and Industry.

In his role as Managing Trustee, one of Robert Hollis' dreams for the development of the 'Chase' was to construct 'the finest marine drive in the whole world, viz. from Bobbin Head to Brooklyn'.<sup>53</sup> As the scale of Hollis' proposal was considerable, he approached the government to arrange for the works to be done through prison labour. In 1930 Hollis was advised that two destroyers had been purchased which were being converted into hulks each accommodating 50 prisoners.

<sup>48</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.15

<sup>49</sup> KCT Minutes 1 August 1925

<sup>50</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.10

<sup>51</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.17

<sup>52</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.17

<sup>53</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.22

The Minister of the Department of Justice, Mr J R Lee advised that he had also secured a warden experienced in road making and expected that the hulks be ready to go to Cowan Creek by the end of the February. The Trust did not support his vision and in mid February when Hollis tabled his resolution from the Chair, he was unable to garner a single vote for the proposal. A further motion was put 'that the Minister for Justice be informed that the Trustee's are not in favour of the proposed road from Bobbin Head to Brooklyn and be requested that no further action be taken'. The motion which was carried unanimously.<sup>54</sup>

The Government of the time sent word to the Trust that the Government had decided to proceed with road works in the 'Chase' regardless. A notice appeared in the government Gazette proclaiming an area of Cowan Creek from Windybank's to Bobbin Head a prison detention area. A change of government with a new Minister for Justice, Mr Lamaro, decided that the work would not proceed and the hulks were to be removed. The Detention Area was cancelled in June 1931.<sup>55</sup>

Robert Hollis was born in England in 1851 and arrived in NSW in 1881 where he obtained employment in the locomotive branch of the NSW Department of Railways. He became interested in union affairs until 1901 when he was elected to the NSW parliament as a member for the electorate of Newtown- Erskineville. He served in five parliaments until his retirement in 1917. **(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration)**

#### 2.5.4 Honourable R B Orchard (1932 - 1941)

R B Orchard was appointed a Trustee of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust in 1928. In addition to acting as President from 1927 to 1941 he functioned as Managing Trustee from 1932 to 1941. He was a vigorous president and much was accomplished during his term of office. Policy during Orchard's years of office centred principally on developing and improving the Bobbin Head area including the construction of the pavilion, Bobbin Inn, the picnic shelters and extensive plantings.<sup>56</sup> Chapter 1.5 of this report addresses the development of Bobbin Head and R B Orchard's involvement in detail.

Born on 14 October 1871 at Cockatoo near Maryborough, Victoria, Richard Beaumont Orchard (refer to P4) relocated to Sydney with his family in the mid 1870s. In 1885, Orchard became a post office messenger boy, then for four years was a jewellery salesman travelling rural NSW with his brother, supplementing their income with 'magic lantern' shows. By 1899 he had begun a watchmaker's business at Newtown, Sydney, relocating to George Street, Sydney in 1910 and developing the prominent firm of R.B Orchard Ltd, jeweller and watchmaker.<sup>57</sup>

Though Orchard failed in his bid for the Sydney Municipal Council in 1909 and the State seat of Hawkesbury in 1911, he won the Federal seat of Nepean from Labor for the Liberals in May 1913. During WWI he championed the interests of the ordinary soldier. In 1916, while a member of the British Empire Parliamentary Association, Orchard toured the troops on the western front and strengthened his reputations as 'the Soldier's Friend'. A supporter of W M Hughes's National Government, he was a member of the parliamentary recruiting committee in 1917-18. Appointed honorary minister in March 1918 he served until 31 January 1919. He then became chairman of the peace celebrations committee and member of both the war and peace loan committees before retiring from politics that same year.

In 1924 Orchard was a NSW commissioner to the British Empire exhibition at Wembley, England and spoke on trade reciprocity throughout Canada on his return voyage. A member of the wireless advisory committee from 1929, Orchard was a founding member and was sometimes referred to as the lowbrow member of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, serving from 1932-39. He was a director for twelve years, and president for four years, of the Smith Family. In 1938 he was briefly Joint Secretary of the Australian Defence League. Richard Orchard died on 24 July 1942 at Darling Point, Sydney and was survived by his wife Maria Annie Austen, a son and three daughters.<sup>58</sup> Orchard Park at Bobbin Head is named after him.

**(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration  
National Theme: Marking the Phases of Life; State Theme: Persons)**

<sup>54</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.22

<sup>55</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.21

<sup>56</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.23

<sup>57</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 11:1891-1939; 1988, Melbourne University Press, p.89

<sup>58</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 11:1891-1939; 1988, p.89



P4. Portrait of R B Orchard (Source: NPWS Archives)



P5. The Koala Sanctuary (Source: NPWS Archives)



P6. Picnicking in the 'Chase' - date unknown (Source: NPWS Archives)

### 2.5.5 Presidents (1942-1954)

During Orchard's period as president he assumed less responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Chase. Under Orchard's management a Superintendent, Mr Wallace, was employed and took on the management of the Chase. This enabled the Trust to concentrate on its role of policy development.

From 1942 until 1954 the Trust was under the control of three Presidents: Mr W Hermon Slade (1942-1947), Hon. E H Farrar (1947-1948) and Mr Colin C Burnside (1948-1954). Policy during this period mostly followed the direction of RB Orchard and concentrated on the further development and extension of the Bobbin Head, Apple Tree Bay and Illawong Bay areas. However, floods caused considerable damage to the Bobbin Head area and restoration of this damage occupied the Trust and committed available finances for many years. Government grants increased from £1700 in 1942/3 to £5000 in 1953/4. A special grant of £6000 was made in 1953/4. Little could be accomplished until the end of WWII.

Early in 1942 following the entry of Japan into the war, the Naval and Military authorities removed all boats from the waters within the 'Chase'. This included the houseboats and pontoons fronting boatsheds. This loss heavily affected the revenue that the Trust had relied on from carparking fees and the lease of boatsheds and kiosks. After a few months, all boats were returned to their moorings. In the immediate post war years, efforts were concentrated on effecting maintenance to assets which had been neglected during the war.

At a Trust meeting on 17 June 1944, the Trust decided that the term Cowan Creek was inappropriate and that henceforth the headwaters were known as Cowan Waters. At the suggestion of the Department of Lands the name was changed to fit in with Pittwater and Brisbane Water.

In 1940 the Trust became interested in the establishment of a reservation for Koalas. However the proposal was deferred until after the war when in May 1945 Mr E J Hallstrom (a local resident) wrote to the trustees urging the trust to 'seriously tackle the preservation of the Koala Bear'.<sup>59</sup> Mr Hallstrom offered 2000 suitable trees to be planted and the Trustees accepted the offer (the location of the tree planting is unknown). Arrangements and discussions proceeded for the following years until in 1950 it was decided to fence an area of 8 acres with cyclone wire west of the Apple Tree Bay lookout and arrangements were completed for a water supply from Mount Colah and for the installation of an electricity supply.

In November 1950, tenders were accepted for the construction of a warden's cottage and a toilet block and Mr Hallstrom financed and arranged construction of a Koala Bear Shelter House (refer to P5). By 1953 additional animal shelters, walking tracks and a kiosk were completed. During the next 5 years additional enclosures and bird houses were erected and many gifts of animals and birds were made to the Trust. The sanctuary at this time was under the control of Warden W Little.<sup>60</sup> Today, the site of the Koala Sanctuary houses the National Parks and Wildlife Service 'Kalkari Discovery Centre'.

**(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration)**

### 2.5.6 Presidents (1954-1967)

The final thirteen years prior to the taking over by National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust was controlled by the Honourable W E Dickinson (1954-1963) and the Honourable E G Wright (1963-1967).

In 1961 the Ku-ring-gai Chase Act No. 43 was passed which effectively dedicated Ku-ring-gai Chase as a public park (within the meaning of the Public Park Act). The Act had the effect of revoking all previous dedications and cancelling all previous Crown grants issued in respect of any land within the 'Chase'. In 1962 certain administrative problems arose which resulted in the resignation of Mr E G Blanshard as Secretary and the appointment of Mr J A Erskine as Superintendent. In this same period the Trusts' administrative headquarters was transferred from the city to Bobbin Head.<sup>61</sup>

In 1967, following 73 years of trust management, the 'Chase' was gazetted as a National Park under the management of the newly formed National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Service took over the recently completed park office and visitors centre on the hill above Bobbin Head (Apple Tree Flat) and converted the Koala Sanctuary into the Kalkari Discovery Centre containing displays on the Aboriginal history and ecology of the park.

**(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration)**

<sup>59</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.28

<sup>60</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.30

<sup>61</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.34



P7. One of the Windybank houseboats- 'Pleasureland' (Source: State Library of NSW/ PXA635-187)



P8. Shaw's boatshed at Bobbin Head c. 1899 (Source: NPWS Archives)



Figure 2.3. Parish of Broken Bay 1891 showing early track leading to Bobbin Head (Source: Mitchell Library/ Z1891)

## 2.6 Bobbin Head: the Phases of Development

### 2.6.1 Recreation Use Prior to 1894

It is thought that Bobbin Head (Bobbin Point or Bobbing Rock) derived its name from a rock located within the vicinity of The Marina. When the rock became partially submerged at high tide it appeared to bob up and down in the water.<sup>62</sup>

Initially used by timber getters in the 1830s and certainly by flower sellers, by the 1880s at least two boatsheds were established and operating as commercial outlets for the hiring of rowing boats and houseboats on Cowan Creek (refer to P7). These hiring outlets were Shaw's at Foley's Bay (located at Bobbin Head, the eastern side of Cockle Creek) and Windybanks' Boatshed at Waratah Bay (located to the north of Apple Tree Bay).

Reference to the recreational use of the Ku-ring-gai Chase region starts in 1886-87 when Edward Clarke Windybank, a boat builder, first glimpsed the waters of Cowan Creek and decided to make the place his home. Initially living in a cave on the edge of the bay he named Waratah Bay, he built his first house near a spring and then a second home with a boatshed he named 'Fairyland' next to the water's edge. Over the entrance to his boatshed he wrote: 'Man made the city but God made the bush'. By 1894 when Ku-ring-gai Chase was proclaimed a National Park, he had 30 boats for hire and later owned over 60 rowing boats and 13 houseboats. Windybank aimed to create a fantasy land where city folk could escape to 'paradise' and his cottages were called 'Pleasureland', 'Promiseland' and 'Wonderland', while the houseboats were named 'Loveland', 'Dreamland', 'Merryland' and 'Lazyland' (refer to P7).<sup>63</sup>

Similarly, Shaw's boatshed at Bobbin Head (refer to P8) was already established and attracting visitors in 1894 when the park was first established. Shaw's continued at the location until the early 1900s. The site later became known as Sainty's, followed by Swifts (up until the 1920s), Percival's (from early 1920s to 1928) and Stanley's (in 1928).<sup>64</sup>

Initially, access to Bobbin Head was by water or on foot through the bush. By the late 1880s, hand made tracks had been constructed through the area, allowing access from railway stations to the main recreation spots (refer to Figure 2.3). A description of a days travel and recreation at Cowan Creek beginning from Berowra railway station appeared in the newsprint in the late 1800s:

It was to Cowan Creek that I was bound... and acting upon the advice of a small boy who reached the platform soon after my arrival, I crossed the line and 'followed the track' indicated by a sign pointing to 'Fairy Land'. Such Cowan Creek proved to be. Passing through a wicket gate, I was soon walking easily down a well-made but somewhat steep pathway winding round the side of the heavily foliaged and flower decked hill, with a deep gully to my right....Round the hill and down the hill I continued for about 20 minutes, every 60 seconds of which opened to view some new picture of nature's loveliness ... and then, after crossing a pretty rustic bridge, the hill was transferred from the left to the right as the approach was made to Cowan.<sup>65</sup>

By 1899, access to the region was greatly improved with the following description appearing in Dymock's Guide to Sydney and NSW (1899) outlining Du Faur's original roadway to Bobbin Head:

Roadway to Bobbin Rock, enables vehicles to descend to within 300 feet of the water; a zigzag path completes the descent, and a foreshore path to Cockle Creek; good supplies of fresh water have been opened up and conserved, and a horse paddock of about two acres, fenced in at the end of the present driving road....a foreshore path has been made for the foot of Colah zigzag, heading round Foleys Bay for about ½ mile, which is to be continued round Gilberagong Point to the head of Apple Tree Bay, and will make a charming walk of about 1½ miles.<sup>66</sup>

**(National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Leisure  
National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Transport)**

<sup>62</sup> Jehne R, 1992; Conservation Plan for stone buildings on the eastern side of Cockle Creek, Bobbin Head, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hurstville, p.7

<sup>63</sup> Jehne R, 1996; Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, NPWS, Hurstville, p.17

<sup>64</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.24

<sup>65</sup> Mitchell Library Newspaper Cuttings Vol. 78, undated

<sup>66</sup> Dymock W, 1899; Dymock's Guide to Sydney & NSW (2nd Edition), p.137



P9. Causeway over Cockle Creek joins the two roads. Shaw's boatshed is shown on the headland c.1910-1913 (Source: NPWS Archives)



Figure 2.4. Parish of Broken Bay 1927 showing original alignment of access routes to Bobbin Head and causeway over Cockle (Gibberagong) Creek. (Source: Department of Lands/ Map ID. 14012301)

### 2.6.2 Establishing the Park: 1894-1910 (see figure 2.8)

From its inception the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust endeavoured to provide facilities for the public at Bobbin Head. In 1901 construction began on a roadway from North Turramurra to Bobbin Head. Early roads in the immediate vicinity were already in existence including a track leading into Bobbin Head and in 1894 work began on the clearing of a 33 foot (10 metre) road from the Chase entrance to the headland.<sup>67</sup> In 1895, Surveyor Mr Ebsworth was employed to mark out a new line of road across the swamp at the entrance to the Bobbin Head section of the Chase.<sup>68</sup> The design and construction of this early road was supervised by Du Faur and paid for partly out of his own resources, with work continuing on the road as finance became available. Work was completed by April 1901.<sup>69</sup> The original road was approximately 3¼ miles (6 km) in length and during the construction a water supply was installed at a cost of £50 to 'provide water for the beasts of burden'.<sup>70</sup> The existing walking track 'Bobbin Head Trail' marks the original alignment of the former roadway.

In the following year, considerable effort was put into the construction of a road from the Mount Colah entrance to Bobbin Head (Ku-ring-gai Chase Road) and the erection of a causeway over Cockle Creek (refer to P9). The Department of Public Works assisted in this project and some 60 or 70 unemployed workers were engaged on the works. The road and causeway were completed in 1903, although for some time the Trustees refused to accept responsibility until further work was undertaken on dangerous sections, including the addition of culverts and fencing. Much work occurred to the road over the years, in particular on the hairpin bends. In 1913 the road was finally completed and became safe for use by traffic.<sup>71</sup>

The joining of the two roads allowed for far greater access and services began to be established to accommodate the growing numbers of visitors (refer to Figure 2.4). Services had already begun to be introduced to the area including a horse paddock and stalls to the flats above Bobbin Head and a bicycle shed along Bobbin Head Road in 1900. In 1901 Eccleston Du Faur requested Shaw (on the eastern side) to build stables and ladies toilets to cater for the increasing number of visitors who came by horse and buggy and bicycle.<sup>72</sup> By 1905, Sainty's Boatshed (previously Shaw's) was selling refreshments, fruit and soft drinks, as well as hiring out boats and renting stable space.<sup>73</sup>

Tourist brochures of the early 1900s promoted the round trip from Turramurra to Hornsby via Bobbin Head:

For an afternoon drive, take the train to Turramurra (1s. 6d. and 1s return), and there catch the coach for the Bobbin Head Road, fare 1s. 3d.; or hire a vehicle, and after driving to Bobbin Head, return via Hornsby, across the Causeway at Foley's Bay, and along the Colah Road. Vehicles may also be hired at Wahroonga or Hornsby for similar trips.

Visitors via Hornsby, down the Colah Road, can stable their horses and buggy in the stock-yard at Apple Tree Point, where there are facilities for picnicking, fire-places, &c., and a plentiful supply of water for man and beast.<sup>74</sup>

**(National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Leisure  
National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Transport)**

### 2.6.3 Park Development and the Motor Car: 1911-1931 (see figure 2.9)

The advent of the motor car led to a series of reclamation works to both sides of Cockle Creek in order to provide parking space. Through photographic records, the sequence of the development of the east and west sides of Cockle Creek are as follows: the initial causeway joining the Bobbin Head Road and Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, the east side in front of the original boatshed (Wharf Area), on the west side of the creek the area immediately to the south of the causeway (Orchard Park South), on the west side of the creek the area to the north of the causeway (Orchard Park) and finally a southern extension to create what is now known as Gibberagong Park. Years later further reclamation works occurred to the southern most section of the western side of the recreation area (Gibberagong South).

<sup>67</sup> Ku Ring Gai Chase Trust Minutes 2 December 1894

<sup>68</sup> Ku Ring Gai Chase Trust Minutes 5 March 1895

<sup>69</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.9

<sup>70</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.9

<sup>71</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.9

<sup>72</sup> Jehne R, 1996; p.17

<sup>73</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.8

<sup>74</sup> Government Tourist Bureau, undated; Kuring-Gai Chase NSW, p.9





*P10. Cockle Creek showing seawall to north of causeway with Wharf Area and Orchard Park South already reclaimed, while Orchard Park awaits reclamation works (Source: Hornsby Council/ No. 00192)*

Reclamation of Bobbin Head began in 1911 when a recommendation was made that a wall near the boatsheds at Bobbin Head be extended for the purpose of erecting a motor shed (on the current Wharf Area). A rubble wall was also to be constructed from the bridge along the eastern side and the space to be reclaimed was proposed for the building of a large shelter shed.<sup>75</sup> By 1912-4 motor sheds were under construction on the east side with future plans for more garages and shelter sheds to be erected on the west side following the completion of reclamation works.<sup>76</sup> 1917-18 saw the completion of a seawall along the west side of Cockle Creek on either side of the causeway (Orchard Park and Orchard Park South). Some years elapsed before the Trustees were able to secure a dredge to enable completion of the reclamation work (refer to P10).

Dredging of the channel of Cockle Creek and reclamation of an area at the foot of the headland (Wharf Area) started on 24 September 1922. It was completed by November with a drain laid to dry the reclaimed land, and levelling off and top dressing still to be completed.<sup>77</sup> The 1923 report referred to:

Dredging of the channel of the Gibberagong Arm of Cowan Creek at Bobbin Head and the reclamation of an area at the foot of the headland by filling up a space to form a channel. The reclamation is being top-dressed with about 2000 cart loads of material taken from the hillsides to raise the level of the reclamation well above the highest spring tides.<sup>78</sup>

Between 1911 and 1931, the Chase was beset by storm and flood damage. In March 1914 torrential rains caused flooding at Cockle Creek and washed away part of the causeway at Bobbin Head. Subsequently the bridge spanning each side of the causeway had to be closed for 15 months before repairs were affected. In 1920 the bridge was again deemed unsafe and barriers were erected and the road closed. Repairs did not begin on the bridge until October 1921 and the road was finally reopened in December of that same year.<sup>79</sup>

By 1925 further land at Bobbin Head was needed and the Trust approached the Department of Public Works to prepare a cost estimate for the reclamation of ½ acre of land as additional space for carparking.<sup>80</sup> These works did not go ahead as on Good Friday 1927 the Chase again suffered further severe damage from rains and gales. The bridge at Bobbin Head was destroyed with about 50 feet (15 metres) of the causeway washed away. On the Wharf Area some 10 feet of the foreshore was destroyed along with the collapse of a public jetty previously constructed in conjunction with the boatshed.<sup>81</sup>

The Trustees sought financial assistance to repair and rebuild the lost structures. Funds were provided by the Minister for Labour and Industry, the Honourable E H Farrar. Managing Trustee, Robert Hollis, had previously approached every ministerial source from which finance could be forthcoming, however with the depression starting few departments could assist. The Minister for Lands advised that there were no funds to help, although the annual grant for 1927- 28 was increased by £550. A further £250 was provided by the Department of Public Works in September 1927, although these amounts were insufficient. Nevertheless, Hollis persisted and eventually Mr Farrar advised that a grant of £10,000 had been made available to the Department of Public Works to carry out repair works in the 'Chase'.<sup>82</sup>

According to the Presidents Meeting Report on 13 September 1928:

We came to the conclusion the best use of the money would be to take down the corner of the cliff near the horse stalls, fill in first a corner of the road where it opens out on the flat which is very narrow at this spot, then utilise the stone to build a wall on the flat, so that when we can get a dredge, it would hold up the sand dredged on the flat. I understand the P W Dept. have in contemplation the building of a new portable Dredge sand pump, which would be able to be lifted over the road and could dredge out the channel and fill up that area.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>75</sup> KCT Minutes 7 April 1911

<sup>76</sup> KCT Minutes 13 June 1912

<sup>77</sup> KCT Minutes 12 October 1922

<sup>78</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.12

<sup>79</sup> KCT Minutes 9 September 1920 & 13 October 1921

<sup>80</sup> KCT Minutes 14 May 1925

<sup>81</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.18

<sup>82</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.18

<sup>83</sup> KCT Presidents Report 13 September 1928

With finance provided work was carried out under the supervision of the Department of Public Works. The bridge at Bobbin Head was rebuilt, a new road from the North Turramurra entrance to Bobbin Head built to replace Du Faur's original road to Bobbin Head (which was unsuitable to handle the increased volume of traffic), Apple Tree Bay baths (established in the late 1800s) restored and a new parking area at Bobbin Head established. Works were constructed using unemployed labour and a camp was set up inside the entrance gates at North Turramurra to accommodate the unemployed men working on the roadway. Here some 30 to 40 men camped in tents during the week, returning home on weekends.<sup>84</sup> The Trust, in recognition of Hollis' efforts, wished to name the new road 'Hollis Avenue', however Hollis proposed 'Farrar Avenue' instead. Farrar Avenue was officially opened by the Acting Premier E A Buttenshaw 18 May 1929. Today the road is known as Bobbin Head Road.<sup>85</sup>

In 1929 the Trust reported:

... that the 1927 damage had been repaired. The Apple Tree Bay Baths and the Bobbin Head Jetty had been restored whilst 'the bridge is considerably longer than previous bridges were, thus giving a greater get away for the rush of water coming down the creek in heavy storms, and as it is solidly constructed, it is hoped that it is a permanent structure which will never be washed away again.'<sup>86</sup>

The improved roadways and the popularity of the motor car resulted in increased visitation. Consequently, demands increased on the public conveniences at Bobbin Head. In 1929 with the opening of Farrar Avenue (Bobbin Head Road), the area became so popular that a one way traffic route was created with cars travelling down one road and returning via the other. The existing stables located on the Wharf Area were converted into garages. In 1928 permission was granted to the Turramurra Bus Co. to run services from Turramurra to Bobbin Head and in June 1929, 500 cars were recorded as being parked at Bobbin Head at the one time. It is during this period that parking fees were first introduced with a charge of 1/- per day for all vehicles entering any parking areas set aside by the Trustees. Monies collected from parking fees were to be devoted to the construction of a road from Turramurra entrance gates to Bobbin Head (Ku-ring-gai Chase Road).<sup>87</sup>

The popularity of the Bobbin Head region of the Chase led to the erection of a stone wall on the flat along the west side of the Creek, north and south of the existing causeway, so the area could be dredged to infill the space as a parking area. Work began in March 1929 and two retaining walls were finished by July, awaiting a dredge to fill the areas.<sup>88</sup> In October 1929, the dredge, Neptune, arrived to begin work filling in the reclaimed areas at a cost of £5000 and in January 1930, due to urgent work elsewhere, the dredge was removed despite reclamation work having only been partially completed on the western side (Orchard Park).<sup>89</sup>

The surge in popularity of Bobbin Head was due to the Trust's promotion of the parklands, especially through the newspapers:

Cowan Creek, beautiful as the English Lakes, look their best in the temperate seasons of the year, and if one is fortunate enough to see the mists floating, when gleams of the rising sun tint the highlands, or shadows are creeping up from the lowlands, while the evening sky is flecked with rosy clouds, then one almost wishes never to be worried with the noises and turmoil of the city again.<sup>90</sup>

This romanticised view ignored the practicalities of establishing a popular recreation parkland in such an isolated area. The need for adequate and hygienic toilet facilities highlights the difficulties faced by the Trust in providing essential conveniences. A protracted campaign for the construction of septic toilets at Bobbin Head began in 1928 and continued to 1932. Despite the Trust having received unemployment relief grants in 1928 and 1930, permission was not granted by the government to use these resources on the urgently required toilets. It was not until January 14th 1932 that funds were granted for this purpose, together with further funding to widen and repair

<sup>84</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.10

<sup>85</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.19

<sup>86</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.18

<sup>87</sup> KCT Minutes 10 May 1928

<sup>88</sup> KCT Minutes 14 February 1929 & 11 July 1929

<sup>89</sup> KCT Minutes 13 February 1930

<sup>90</sup> Joseland H, 1925 cited in Jehne R, 1992; p.10



P11. Bobbin Head showing garages, toilet block and boatshed located on the Wharf Area and retaining wall along Orchard Park South (Source: NPWS Archives)



P12. Playground located to south of Orchard Park- Sunny Corner (Source: Souvenir of Kuringai Chase and Bobbin Head "the Beautiful" c. 1939)



P13. Orchard Park circa 1930s showing seawall, pavilion, picnic shelters, landscaping, Bobbin Inn and unfilled section to the south of Orchard Park (Source: NPWS Archives)

Farrar Avenue and Colah Road. The new stone septic toilet block was completed in 1932 from sandstone cut on site the previous year<sup>91</sup> (see P11). Although less formal than Orchard Park, landscaping works in the Wharf Area was viewed by the Trust at the time as 'greatly enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape...A large quantity of trees, shrubs, flowering plants and creepers as well as palms have been planted... this work has greatly improved the appearance of this natural beauty spot'.<sup>92</sup>

During the 1920s toilet facilities at Bobbin Head had become outdated, unhygienic and inadequate to serve the increasing numbers of visitors. The original toilets on the site were those erected in 1902 as an extension to the Bobbin Head Boatshed leased by Shaw. In addition to the annexed ladies toilets, there previously existed over-the-water toilets which served the male visitors. The over-the-water toilets were located along the bank of the creek adjacent to the bridge. They had wooden seats and 'you looked straight down into the water. You could see the bream swimming underneath you'.<sup>93</sup>

The increased usage of the 'Chase' resulted in water shortages. In 1924 the Trustees constructed a reservoir tank at Foley's Bay with a capacity of 30,000 gallons. The tank gravity fed to Bobbin Head to give an adequate supply to campers.<sup>94</sup>

**(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Environment - Cultural Landscape  
National Theme: Building Settlements; State Theme: Land Tenure  
National Theme: Building Settlements; State Theme: Utilities  
National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Environment - Leisure)**

#### 2.6.4 Unemployment Relief Funds: 1932-1947 (see figure 2.10)

Despite the economic decline affecting the rest of Sydney, the 1930s and 1940s brought about a new phase of development and enhancement to Bobbin Head. In order to alleviate severe unemployment and to create work during the 1930s, the NSW State Government made Unemployment Relief Grants and Unemployment Relief Loans available to local councils and parks.

In 1929 the Federal Government announced that £1,000,000 was to be allocated to the States for the provision of relief for the unemployed. The sum was a portion of funds already set aside by the Commonwealth for road works by the States under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement. The unemployment situation necessitated the immediate use of the money. New South Wales received £276,000, Victoria £180,000, Queensland £188,000, South Australia £114,000, Western Australia £192,000 and Tasmania £50,000. The Prime Minister made it clear that responsibility for the welfare of the unemployed rested with the States.<sup>95</sup> Supervision of construction works during the depression was under the control of the Department of Labour and Industry until September 1936, then the Department of Public Works.

Improvement works at Bobbin Head utilising unemployed labour and Unemployment Relief Grants included a new bridge across Cockle Creek (replacing a bridge washed away in 1927) in 1928-9; local road work construction and the widening of Farrar Avenue (Bobbin Head Road) and Colah Road (Ku-ring-gai Chase Road) in 1930 and 1932; construction work and the widening of the lower section of Colah Road in 1930; construction of the stone septic tank toilet block in 1932; landscape planting and removal of garages on the banks of the west side of Cockle Creek in 1934 and construction of a 1300 foot (396 metres) long retaining wall along the southern section of Cockle Creek in 1936<sup>96</sup> (see P7).

During the late 1920s, the Trust saw Bobbin Head as one of their main revenue producing areas and decided to base administration operations there. By July 1935 a small office for the parking fees collector was built at the Wharf Area, south of the garages. In 1934 the amount collected from parking fees was £270/6/6, this steadily increased over the years to £480/10/6 in 1937 and £857/15/- in 1939.<sup>97</sup>

The 1933 six shelter sheds, a parking area and swing sets were introduced to Orchard Park South. Trees, shrubs and creepers were planted although the area was still to be top dressed and grassed over.<sup>98</sup> It was suggested that the remainder of the area on the west side to be used as a swimming pool rather than being filled in (see P12).<sup>99</sup>

<sup>91</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.12

<sup>92</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.41

<sup>93</sup> Lovegrove L cited in Jehne R, 1992; p.25

<sup>94</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.12

<sup>95</sup> National Archives of Australia, Working for the Dole: Responsibility for Unemployment Relief, cited at [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

<sup>96</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.14

<sup>97</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.17

<sup>98</sup> KCT Minutes 26 May 1933 & 13 July 1933

<sup>99</sup> KCT Minutes 11 May 1933



P14. Bobbin Inn (Source: NPWS Archives)



P15. Shark net across Cockle Creek, Orchard Park (Source: NPWS Archives)

Visitation to the 'Chase', particularly to Bobbin Head, continued to increase and facilities deemed inadequate. In 1933 a programme of tree planting commenced at Orchard Park, together with the construction of a pavilion and 12 shelters. This project continued off and on until 1936. The trees and shrubs planted during the 1930s formalisation period were gifts from the Sydney City Council and Vacluse House.<sup>100</sup> Tree planting was first suggested in the late 1920s by Mr R B Orchard (then a Trustee) and was discussed with Mr Roper (Under Secretary, Department of Labour) and the Forestry Department. At that time the Forestry Department promised to bring a Mr Golian from Gosford to go over the ground and also advised Trust make contact with Mr Ward, a curator at the Botanic Gardens, Sydney<sup>101</sup>

Hollis' Crossing, on the Turramurra to Bobbin Head Road, was improved through the planting of flowering shrubs and palms. A small reservoir was constructed at the site of a permanent spring above the Crossing to ensure a continuous flow of water down the Creek. With loan money provided from the Unemployment Relief Fund in 1936, the Trust constructed a new wharf, swimming baths and a powerhouse with new lighting plant at Bobbin Head. In 1937, again utilising unemployment labour, a 1300 foot retaining wall was constructed along Cockle Creek at Bobbin Head. It was many years before the area was filled to create Gibberagong Park.<sup>102</sup>

A stone Ranger's Office / Ambulance Room and other ancillary buildings were constructed at Wharf Area during 1940-1941. During the same period staff also constructed a staff residence at Apple Tree Bay. Despite the additional facilities provided during this period, the Trust was still not able to adequately cater for all visitors. Deficiencies in water supplies, power and road maintenance were ongoing problems for the Trust.<sup>103</sup>

As early as 1924, the Trust considered constructing an accommodation house and restaurant at Bobbin Head. Joseland, a Trustee and architect, produced plans and estimated the cost of a suitable structure at approximately £5,000. However, problems with arranging a long term (21 year) lease delayed construction and finance until 1935 when the Trust accepted a tender for £3,321 for the construction of a Road House and Refreshment Room in the old quarry at Bobbin Head. The foundation stone was laid by the Honourable R B Orchard on 28 August 1936 and the official opening of the premises, named 'Bobbin Inn', was performed by the Premier, the Honourable B S B Stevens on 10 March 1937 (see P14).<sup>104</sup> From the start, because of the remoteness of the location, problems were experienced by the lessee in retaining staff. In 1939 the Trust converted the old powerhouse into a cottage for the chef. To cope with increased business, additions were made to the building in 1950. In 1951 a block of staff quarters were constructed to house the Inn staff while in 1954 the ballroom was extended and the external patio added.<sup>105</sup>

Other improvements to the Bobbin Head area included the construction of a boatshed in 1936. The boatshed was located east of the Wharf Area and was originally leased to G H Brown at a cost of £810 per annum. The lease was transferred to Lars Halvorsen and Sons Pty Ltd on 1 January 1945 and is today known as The Marina.

A superintendents' residence, located above the Wharf Area and overlooking Bobbin Head, was completed in April 1939. The residence was occupied by Mr R V W Wallace who was appointed the Trusts' first Chief Ranger on 6 May 1939. Subsequently appointed as Superintendent in July 1946, Wallace continued to serve in that capacity until his retirement in 1963. In 1939 'smart blue uniforms which has greatly added to the prestige in dealing with the public' were introduced and for summer months each Ranger was equipped with a khaki tunic and helmet.<sup>106</sup> The Sydney County Council extended the main supply of electricity from the Turramurra entrance to Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay in 1938 and a road extension from Bobbin Head to Apple Tree Bay was constructed by the Department of Public Works in 1938.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>100</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.42 (Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Minutes, February 1934)

<sup>101</sup> KCT President's Report 12 July 1928

<sup>102</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.24

<sup>103</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.24

<sup>104</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.24

<sup>105</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.24

<sup>107</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.25



P16. The one lane Bailey bridge and adjacent footbridge across Cockle Creek. (Source: NPWS Archives)



P17. Orchard Park, Wharf Area, and Gibberagong Parks fully reclaimed and established (Source; NPWS archives)

In 1936, advice was received from the Department of Main Roads that the Turramurra-Mount Colah Road had been gazetted as a main road. This relieved the Trustees of the financial burden of maintaining it. Shortly afterwards the section of road from Turramurra to Bobbin Head was widened in places and tarred and metalled. The 1938 the Trust Annual Report mentioned that the DMR had completed the tarring and metalling to Mount Colah, a distance of 7 miles (11 kilometres) and that the improvements had greatly added to the popularity of the 'Chase'. At this same time arrangements were made for the Department of Main Roads to tar seal all internal roads in the Bobbin Head area at the Trusts' expense.<sup>108</sup>

In July 1941 petrol rationing was introduced following the outbreak of WWII. This caused a dramatic drop in the number of vehicles visiting Bobbin Head and a subsequent drop in revenue. As in its early history, the Trust was now forced to plead its case to the Minister for Lands for reinstatement of a government subsidy to run the park so that:

...valuable assets under their control might be faithfully preserved and efficiently maintained, in anticipation of that time, which we all hope is not far distant, when victory will have been achieved and our people will again take up their peace-time pursuits in a happier and better world.<sup>109</sup>

Not wanting to rely solely on government subsidies, the Trust continued with their programme of promotion and enticement to lure pleasure seekers to the headland. In 1941 the Trust constructed baths at Bobbin Head by placing a shark proof net across the southern side of the existing bridge and created a children's playground at Orchard Park as well as a merry-go-round 'the most popular installation to date'.<sup>110</sup> The original playground to Orchard Park was located to the rear of the reclaimed land in an area today used as a parking area and known as 'Sunny Corner' (refer to P12).

Despite these improvements, revenue declined even further in 1942. The financial repercussions of this drop in visitation flowed onto the lessees in the park. The Trust was forced to lower the rent paid by both the Bobbin Head Boatshed and the Bobbin Inn. As a result of this decrease in revenue, the Premier and the Colonial Treasurer approved a remission of the Trust's liability for an 'Interest and Sinking fund payments in respect of Loans'.<sup>111</sup>

During March 1942, 22 inches of rain fell within a week and the traffic bridge and approaches at Bobbin Head were washed away. Retaining walls and reclaimed areas also suffered considerable damage. The break in the Turramurra - Mount Colah Road seriously affected communication between the picnic areas and visitation to the 'Chase' dropped appreciably. To assist the Trust, the Department of Main Roads erected a footbridge across the break in 1943 and in 1947 a temporary one lane Bailey bridge was completed by the DMR, after supporting piles had been supplied and erected by the Trust (refer to P16). In the same year, the Trust submitted their 'Master Plan' to the government for a proposal to upgrade the park and make it an international tourist destination.<sup>112</sup>

In 1946 work commenced on a filling programme at Bobbin Head and Cockle Creek, in the repair of retaining walls damaged in the 1927 floods and to the levels of the already reclaimed land at Bobbin Head where the ground level had subsided causing the area to flood at times of extreme tides. The work proceeded for many years and probably would not have been undertaken but for the reciprocal arrangement with the Department of Main Roads to allow for the removal of gravel from the 'Chase' in exchange for work performed. Some 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes of spoil, gravel and soil were used to complete the reclamation works. In the 1953 Trust Annual Report it was stated that 'the new area has been topped with soil and a further 5000 tons of heavy soil being spread, graded and drained. On top, 2000 tons of loam has been levelled and buffalo roots planted over the whole area'.<sup>113</sup> The work was completed in 1954.

**(National Theme: Building Settlements; State Theme: Land Tenure  
National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Leisure  
National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Sport  
National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Environment - Cultural Landscape  
National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Welfare  
National Theme: Working; State Theme: Labour  
National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Creative Endeavour)**

<sup>108</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p. 25

<sup>109</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.18

<sup>110</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.19

<sup>111</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.19

<sup>112</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.20

<sup>113</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.33



Figure 2.5. Plan of Bobbin Head in 1953. Plan prepared in conjunction with lease of Bobbin Inn (Source: NPWS Archives)

### 2.6.5 Halvorsens Boating Facility (1945 – Present)

In 1945 Lars Halvorsen purchased the lease of the Bobbin Head Boatshed from the then leaseholder, EH Weatley<sup>114</sup>. One of the first tasks for the Halvorsen business was to increase the size of the hire fleet for recreational activity. From 1946 on, numerous cruisers were designed and built by the company at their Ryde shipbuilding yard, for use at Bobbin Head. The majority of boats were moored on swing moorings in Cowan Creek around the licensed area. Many smaller boats were moored directly to the ramp in front of the boatshed. Private recreational hiring allowed many people access into recreational boating<sup>115</sup>. Hiring of a Halvorsen during the holidays became something of a Sydney institution<sup>116</sup>. Many users subsequently purchased Halvorsen boats and moored them at Bobbin Head. At their peak, Halvorsens at Bobbin Head offered sixty-three cruisers for hire and two hundred moorings, as well as numerous launches, skiffs and dinghies<sup>117</sup>.

### 2.6.6 Post World War II: 1948-1966 (see figure 2.11)

With the war over and petrol rationing no longer a problem, Bobbin Head became a popular recreation and picnic area again and further expansions occurred. In 1949 work commenced on the construction of a stone kiosk located in the Wharf Area in front of the Ambulance Room. Stone for the kiosk was quarried in the park not far from Bobbin Head.<sup>118</sup> This kiosk has since been demolished. During the 1950s a series of kiosks were opened up in and around the Bobbin Head area, these included the 'Bus Stop Kiosk', 'Kiosk No. 2', 'Annexe Kiosk', the 'Bobbin Head Fish Shop' the 'Dressing Shed Kiosk', 'Apple Tree Bay Kiosk' and the 'Koala Sanctuary Kiosk'.<sup>119</sup> The exact location of these kiosks is unknown.

Throughout the 1950s, Bobbin Head continued to be promoted as an ideal recreation spot and due to Halvorsen's presence in Cowan Creek, boating and fishing in particular drew crowds. Further infrastructure was required to support the numbers of visitors. In 1958 in collaboration with the Water Sewerage and Drainage Board a large storage tank and pipeline was constructed to provide an adequate water supply for both Apple Tree Bay and Bobbin Head. The cost of construction was estimated at £8,000.<sup>120</sup> Revenue for the same period amounted to £2,052 for the rental of the Bobbin Inn and £622/18/4 for rental of the Bobbin Head kiosks, £11,477/15/8 for parking fees (compared to £5,628/2 collected at Coal and Candle Bay) and £1,338/1/- for the hiring of pavilions and tables, amongst other charges.<sup>121</sup>

The 1950s also saw the construction by Trust staff of a stone kiosk near the bridge in the Wharf Area. A block of 11 garages and a workshop were added to the Wharf Area. In 1952 a 200 KVA transformer was purchased to increase power loads at Bobbin Head and a new sub-station to house the equipment was erected. A special grant of £6,000 was used for the erection of an additional toilet block and shelter shed near Gibberagong Park.<sup>122</sup> In 1955, the newly reclaimed area of Gibberagong Park was kerbed and guttered. General improvements followed and included grass planting, erection of new seats and tables, and installation of a children's wading pool. Further reclamation works occurred along Cockle Creek south of Gibberagong Park (Gibberagong South). This work was underway by 1958 in order to provide further playground and parking spaces in the area.<sup>123</sup>

Built in 1956 by the Department of Main Roads, the existing bridge over Cockle Creek was constructed of prestressed concrete, the first of its kind to be designed and built by the Department of Main Roads. The site at Bobbin Head was selected for the first of such projects so as to enable close control of the technical aspects of the job. The use of prestressed concrete permitted a more slender structure than would have been possible had ordinary reinforced concrete been used and enabled the deck level to be placed about 4 feet lower than would otherwise have been the case.<sup>124</sup> The bridge was officially opened to traffic on 1 September 1956 by the Commissioner for Main Roads, Mr H M Sherrard.

<sup>114</sup> Randi Svensen, *Wooden Boats, Iron Men: The Halvorsen Story*, 2004, Halstead Press and Australian National Maritime Museum, p.101 and Tropman and Tropman Architects, *Halvorsens Boating Facility Conservation Study*, June 1993, p.9

<sup>115</sup> Graham Brooks and Associates, *Bobbin Head Boating Facility, Assessment of Heritage, Impact*, February 2002, p.6

<sup>116</sup> Randi Svensen, *Wooden Boats, Iron Men: The Halvorsen Story*, 2004, Halstead Press and Australian National Maritime Museum, p.104

<sup>117</sup> Randi Svensen, *Wooden Boats, Iron Men: The Halvorsen Story*, p.105

<sup>118</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.20

<sup>119</sup> Jehne R, 1992; p.21

<sup>120</sup> Report of the Kuring-Gai Chase Trust for the year ended 30th June 1958

<sup>121</sup> Report of the Kuring-Gai Chase Trust for the year ended 30th June 1958

<sup>122</sup> Stanley H, 2001; p.27

<sup>123</sup> KCT Minutes Annual report July 1958

<sup>124</sup> New Bridge at Bobbin Head, cited in Main Roads September 1956, p.29



Figure 2.6. Plan of the Recreation Areas at Bobbin Head in Ku-ring-gai Chase 1967 (Source: NPWS Archives)

The Educational Field Studies Centre was constructed in 1961, and was one of the last large-scale works at Bobbin Head to be completed. Most of the ensuing works involved maintenance and repairs. Negotiations were put in place with the Department of Main Roads for the interior roads to be kerbed, guttered and bitumen sealed, the septic tank system was overhauled and extended with the cooperation of the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils and the Trustee's houseboat was renovated.<sup>125</sup> In 1964/65, part of the roof of Bobbin Inn and the whole of the roof of the Wharf Area kiosk was replaced, repairs were conducted to the seawalls, Bobbin Inn staff quarters were painted and a new storeroom constructed.<sup>126</sup>

**(National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Environment - Cultural Landscape  
National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Transport  
National Theme: Building Settlements; State Theme: Land Tenure  
National Theme: Educating; State Theme: Education  
National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Leisure)**

### 2.6.7 National Parks and Wildlife Service: 1967-2006 (see Figure 2.12)

In 1967, the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park was gazetted as a National Park under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967. Although now managed under a government agency, the Trust maintained involvement at least until the mid 1970s in the guise of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Local Committee.

Take over by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1967, did signal the start of many changes to the developed areas of the park. The ensuing period was marked by the removal of many structures from the park in an attempt to reintroduce the natural ecology of the surrounding parklands. Most of the kiosks and amusement facilities were dismantled and removed, four bedrooms within the Educational Field Studies Centre were converted into seminar rooms and offices, the superintendent's office was removed from the stone building to above the garages near Halvorson's, a new colour scheme was introduced to replace the 'garish colours previously used'<sup>127</sup> and in 1970 a new information directory of a timber structure with tiled roof was erected in Orchard Park. Other improvements put forward by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the 1970s included the provision of additional lawn covered areas with water frontage for use by picnickers, elimination of extended vehicle parking, additional parking spaces for buses and paying day visitors, additional boat landing points and facilities for ferry passengers and private boats. Proposed works also included the removal of garage buildings, the removal of vacant stone buildings (former Ranger offices), the removal of stone shelter sheds, and the removal of a stone kiosk building. In 1975 the Bobbin Inn was closed due to lack of patronage (not to reopen until the early 1990s).

In the late 1980s, a metropolitan parks improvement program saw restoration of the 1930s visitor facilities at Bobbin Head including the restoration of the remaining picnic shelters, conversion of the old sandstone garages into a picnic shelter, removal of the old boat ramp and some trees overhanging the picnic pavilion and other landscaping works. Under the management of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, attempts have been made to convert the formal landscape of the 1930s into a more informal and natural landscape. One of the few consistent landscape features maintained by National Parks and Wildlife Service throughout the park has been the planting of Norfolk Island pines along the water's edge in the main recreation area. In 1994, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park celebrated its centenary with major projects which included the construction of a footbridge, boardwalk and walking track through the mangrove area at Bobbin Head.<sup>128</sup>

**(National Theme: Governing; State Theme: Government and Administration  
National Theme: Developing Economies; State Theme: Environment - Cultural Landscape)**

<sup>125</sup> KCT Annual Report July 1960

<sup>126</sup> KCT Annual Report July 1965

<sup>127</sup> Ku Ring Gai Local committee report to NPWS 3 May 1968

<sup>128</sup> NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2002; Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves Plan of Management; p.26

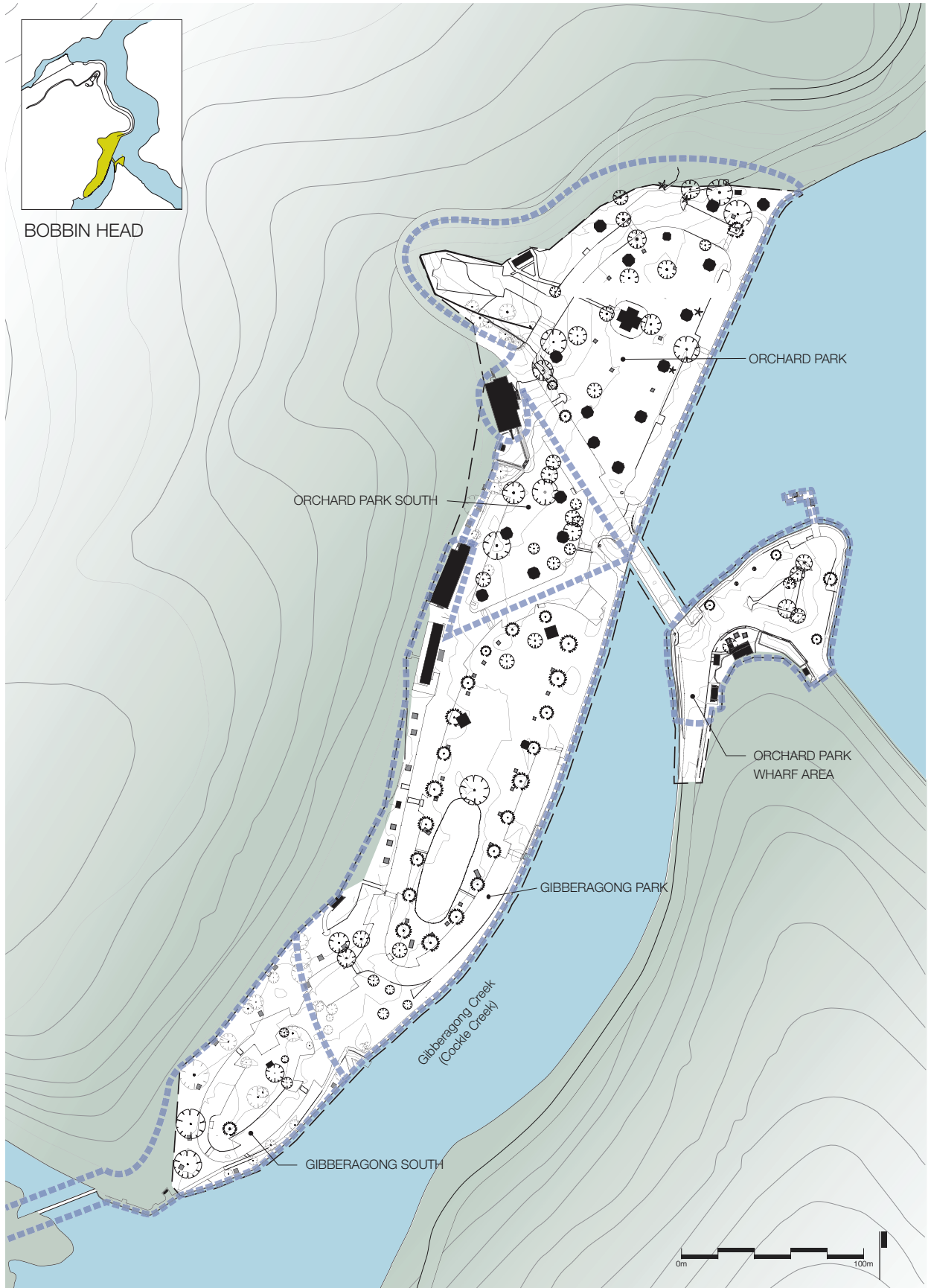


Figure 2.7. Precinct Plan of Bobbin Head (as existing)



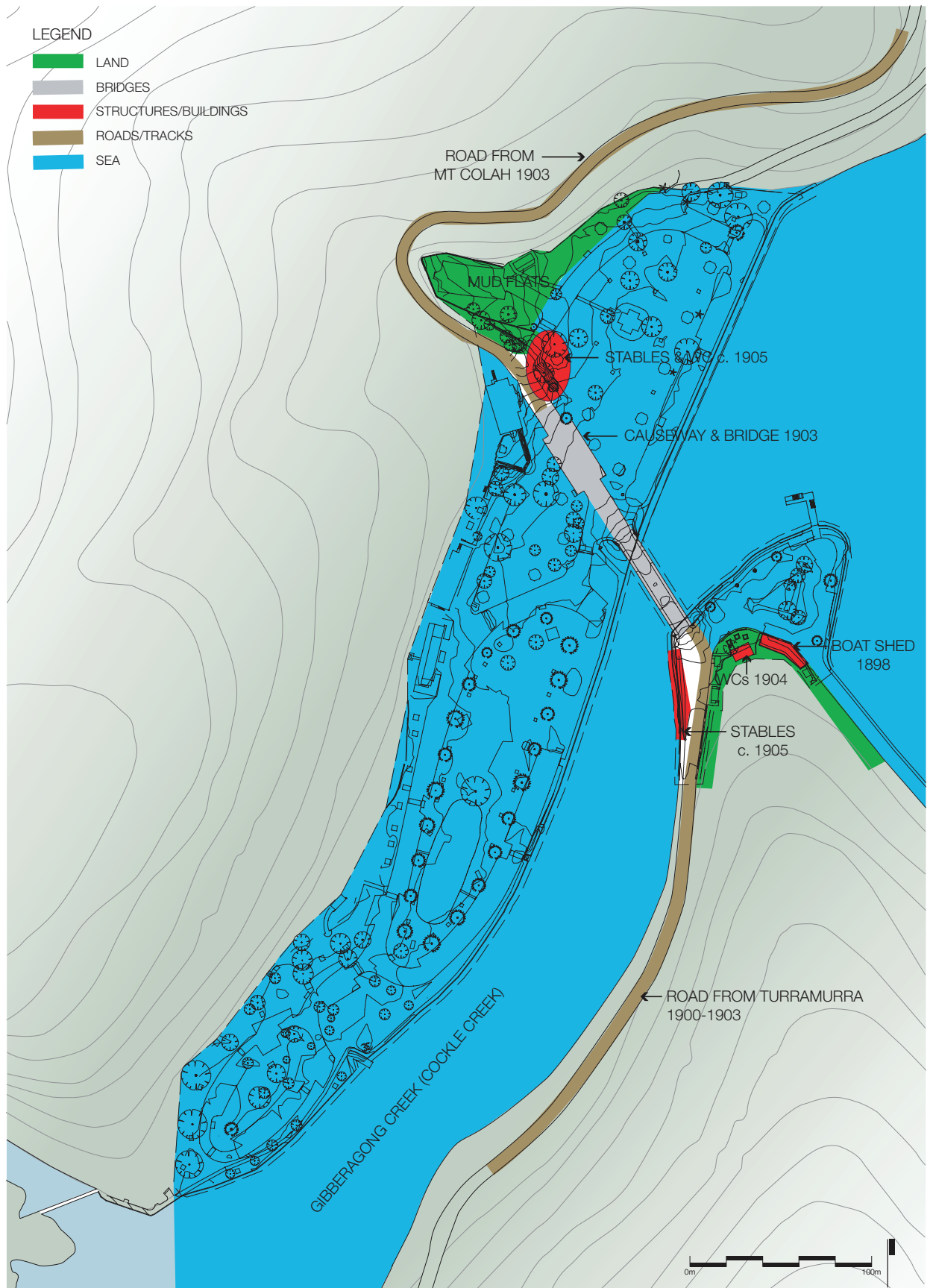


Figure 2.8. Bobbin Head Phases of Development: Phase 1 Joining of the Roads 1894 to 1910

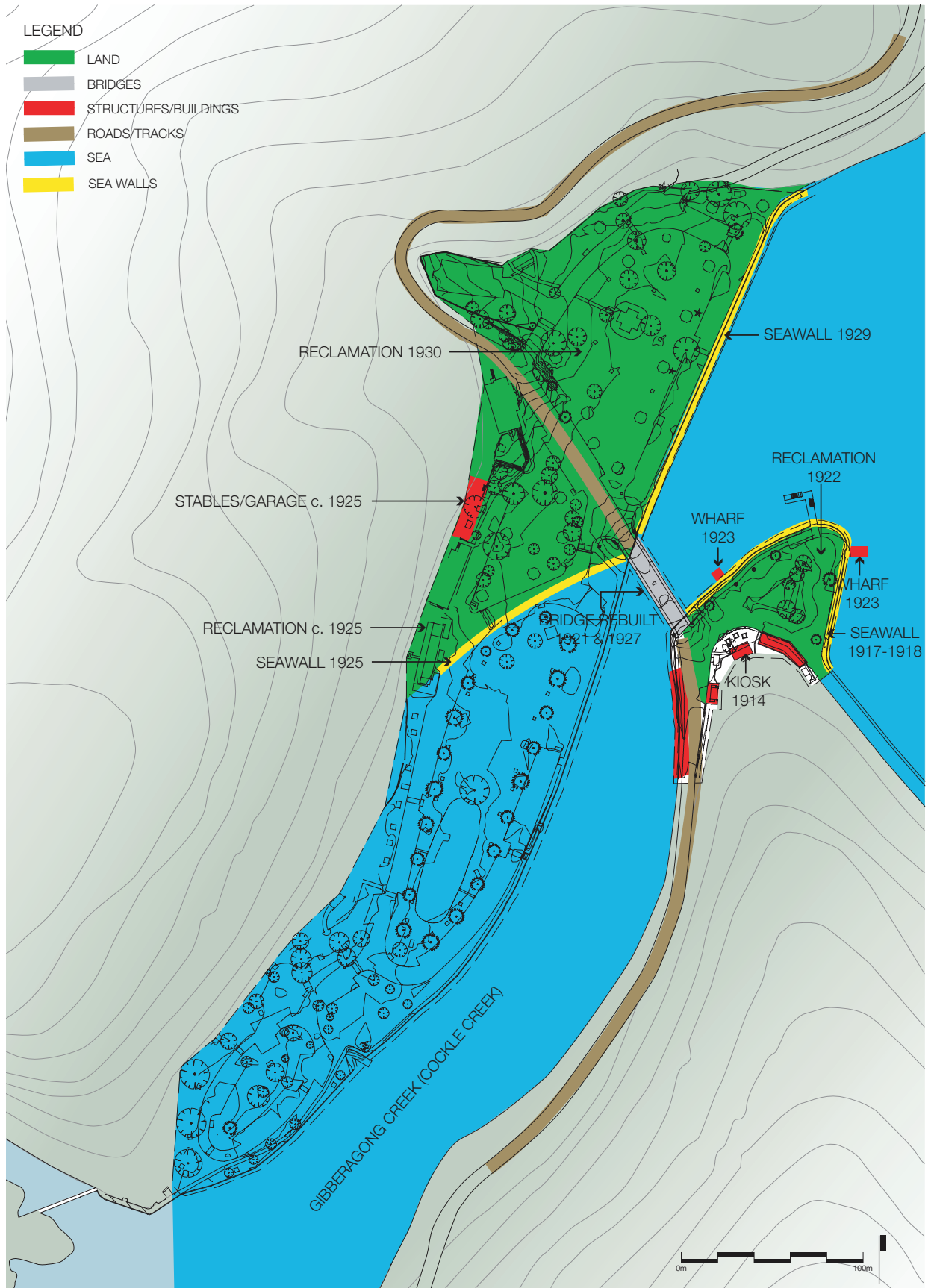


Figure 2.9. Bobbin Head Phases of Development: Phase 2 Land Reclamation 1911 to 1931

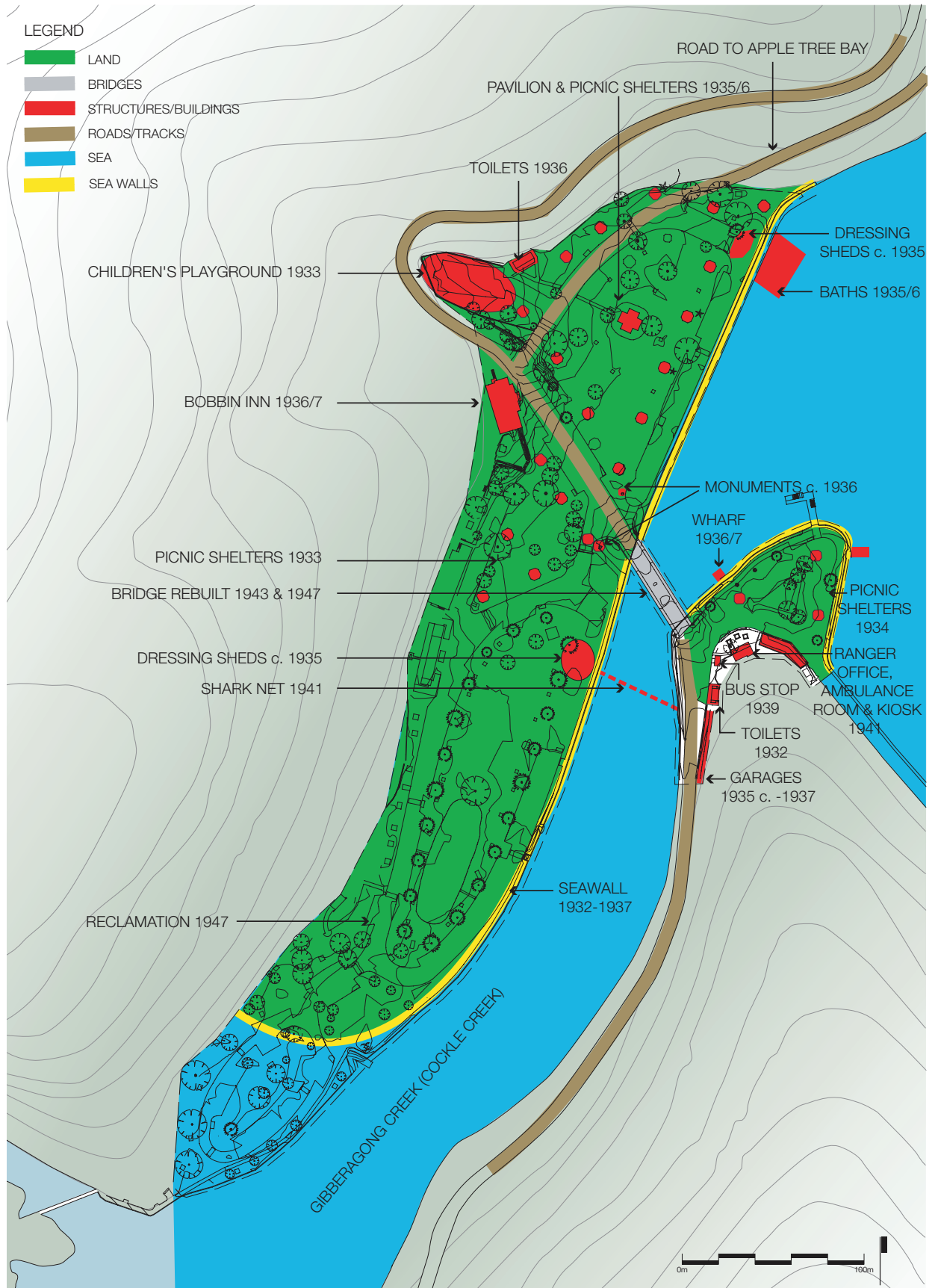


Figure 2.10. Bobbin Head Phases of Development: Phase 3 Orchard Park 1932 to 1947

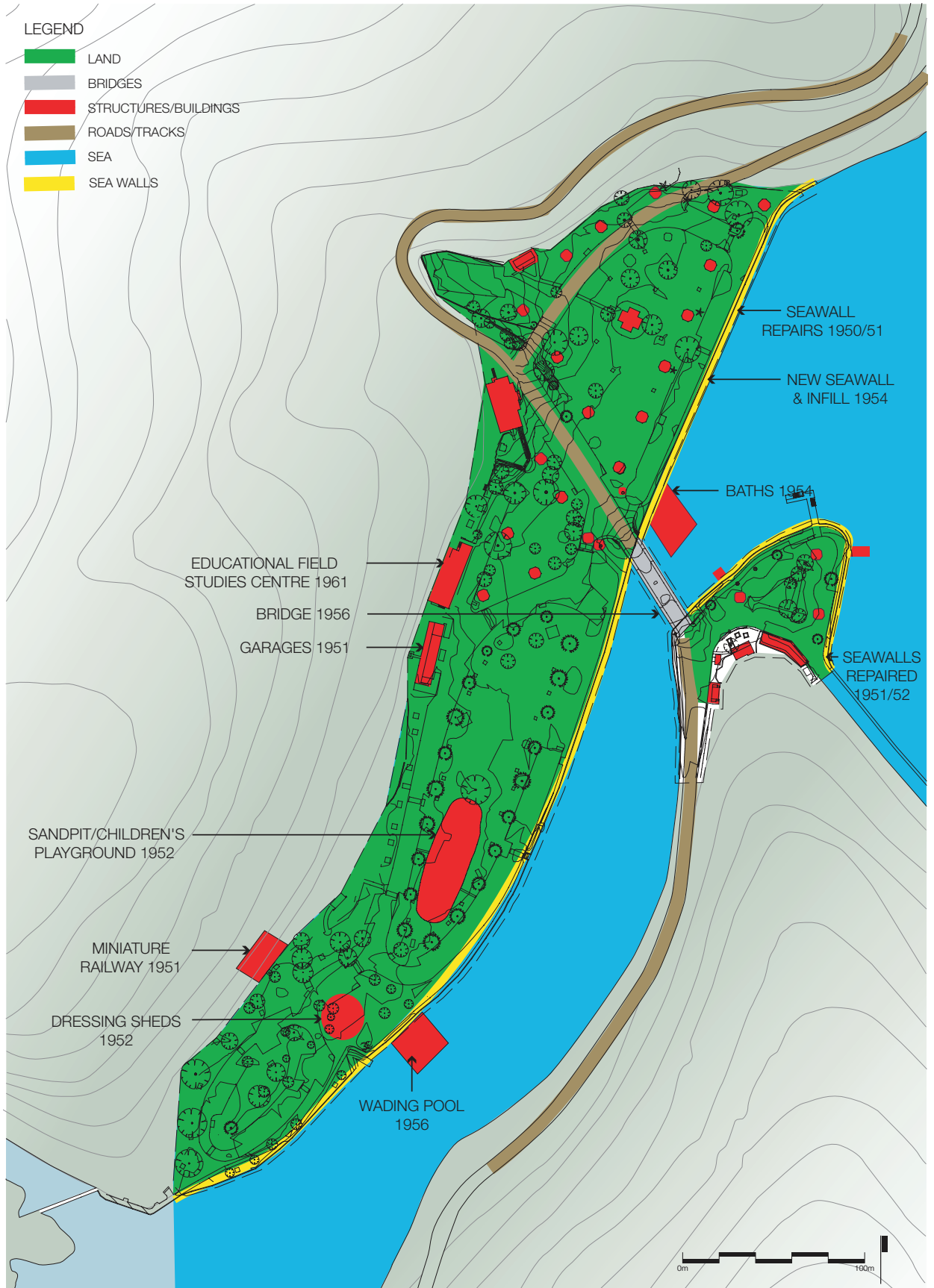


Figure 2.11. Bobbin Head Phases of Development: Phase 4 Gibberagong Park 1948 to 1967

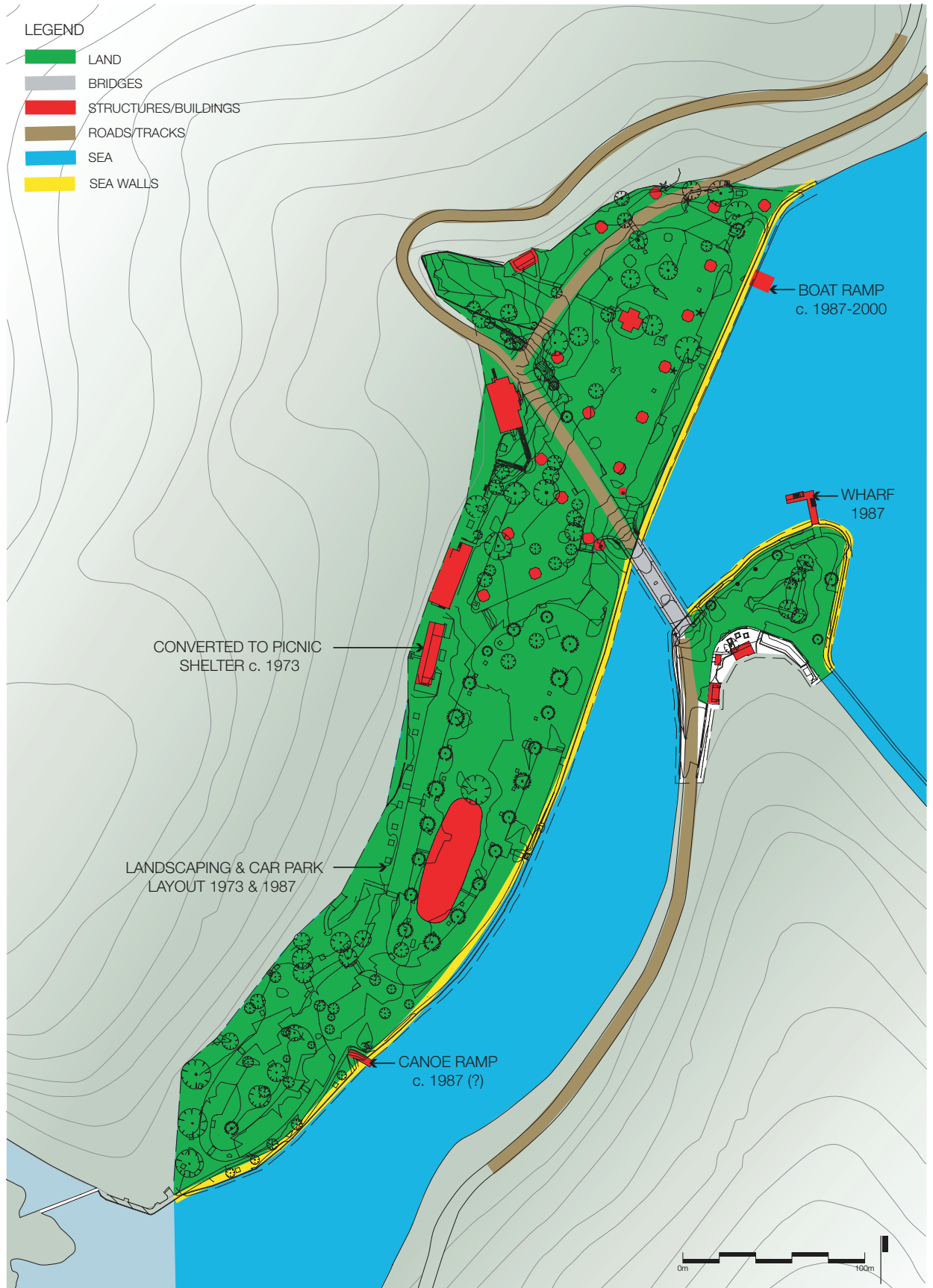


Figure 2.12. Bobbin Head Phases of Development: Phase 5 NPWS 1967 to 2006



P18. Bobbin Head and Shaw's Boatshed, c. 1899 (source: NPWS Archives)

## 2.7 Chronology of Events and Development of the Parklands

The following chronology of events has been compiled based on the history, the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust Minutes, Annual Reports and relates to the development of the Bobbin Head area.

1789	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First official recording of Cowan Creek on a map drawn by John Hunter.</li> </ul>
1832	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Larmer surveyed the Cackle Creek area.</li> </ul>
1840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boat building emerged as an industry along the Cowan Creek.</li> </ul>
1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track to Cowan Creek appears on Parish map of South Colah.</li> </ul>
1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ku-ring-gai proclaimed the second National Park created in NSW, due to the efforts of Eccleston Du Faur.</li> <li>• Party of 4 men employed to clear 20 chains, 1 chain wide area where fence will eventually go for a distance of 2 miles and clearing a 33 foot road from Turramurra entrance to the site of the proposed horse enclosures near Bobbin Head (Minutes 2 December 1894).</li> <li>• Constables Hales, Pymble, Chiltern, O' Burke, Lee and Burke stationed at Bobbin Head to prevent flower stealing, in particular the 'wholesale destruction of Christmas Bush' (Minutes 27 November 1894).</li> </ul>
1895	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveyor Mr Ebsworth camps at Turramurra and marks a new line of road across the swamp at entrance to Bobbin Head (Minutes 5 March 1895)</li> <li>• Road to Bobbin Head referred to as 'Biffeno Road' still in progress (Minutes 20 May 1895).</li> </ul>
1898	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First boat shed, Shaw's Boatshed (later known as Saintry's Boatshed) constructed at Bobbin Head.</li> <li>• Proposal for a driving track to Bobbin Head from Edwards Corner to junction of Lovett's Jump Creek and Cackle Creek, ultimately to be joined to Colah Section by formation of a causeway approximately 7 chains in length across Cackle Creek (Minutes 24 August 1895).</li> <li>• Laying out and surveying a track and zigzag road from entrance of Chase to junction of Gibberagong and Lovett's Jump Creeks, with the view of making a driving road to Shaw's Boatshed (Minutes 20 October 1898).</li> <li>• Causeway to be constructed from a stone wharf at Shaw's to water holes at junction of Lovett's Jump Creek (Minutes 20 October 1898).</li> </ul>
1899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road at Bobbin Head open to the platform above Shaw's Boatshed (Minutes 11 November 1899).</li> </ul>
1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bobbin Head Road extension opened prior to Christmas (1899) to within about 175 feet of the water, a horse paddock and stalls erected there and a water supply laid on for public accommodation. Extension of road to Shaw's still underway (Minutes 7 March 1900).</li> <li>• Bicycle shed on Bobbin Head Road destroyed by fire (Minutes 30 October 1900).</li> </ul>
1901	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road under construction from Mt Colah Railway Station to Bobbin Head.</li> </ul>
1903	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road from Mt Colah station to waterside (Cackle Creek) completed and connected to the road constructed by the Trustees down to Bobbin Head by means of a causeway (Minutes 17 July 1903).</li> </ul>
1904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work underway to complete accommodation at Saintry's Boatshed in the form of lavatories for ladies, conveniences for men and accommodation at the Houseboat (Minutes 11 March 1904).</li> </ul>



P19. Early development of Wharf Area following reclamation (source: NPWS Archives)



P20. Revetment walls constructed either side of Causeway on western side of Cockle Creek (source: NPWS Archives)

1905	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal to construct stables and lavatory on the Cowan Creek (Foley's Bay) side of causeway (west side), as that at the Wharf Area is not sufficient for the demands of visitors at holiday time (Annual report 21 July 1905).</li> <li>• Two stalls at Bobbin Head converted into lockers with locks fixed on all four stalls. A charge of 2/6 per day and Mrs. Sainty to look after the stalls and keys and to retain 6d. for her trouble (Minutes 8 December 1905).</li> <li>• Sainty granted permission to open a stall for sale of light refreshments, fruit and soft drinks during holiday times (Minutes 8 December 1905).</li> </ul>
1906	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seats built along Bobbin Head Road (Minutes 13 July 1906).</li> </ul>
1908	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse stalls under construction on both sides of causeway (Minutes 12 June 1908).</li> </ul>
1911	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation that a wall near end of sheds at Bobbin Head be extended for purpose of erecting motor shed on, Mr Joseland (Trustee) to prepare plans.</li> <li>• Rubble wall to be constructed from the bridge towards the diversion wall at (Sainty's) Wharf Area and the space reclaimed for a large shelter shed (Minutes 7 April 1911).</li> <li>• Jetty erected and curves of Bobbin Head Road widened to accommodate motor cars and other vehicles more safely (Annual report 30 June 1911).</li> <li>• Plans submitted for proposed reclamation work to be done at Wharf Area or on the southern side of the causeway. Works to be delayed until completion of reclamation works at Wharf Area (Minutes 10 August 1911).</li> <li>• December- survey of tram route from Turramurra to Bobbin Head on the eastern side of the creek underway (minutes 12 December 1911).</li> </ul>
1912	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 4 motor sheds underway at Wharf Area (Minutes 13 June 1912).</li> </ul>
1913	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drain pipes for lavatory and other services put in at the Wharf Area (Sainty's) (Minutes 8 May 1913).</li> <li>• Renewal of Colah Road to the causeway across Cockle Creek including widening and addition of extra culverts (Annual report 30 June 1913).</li> </ul>
1914	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm damage to causeway with water reaching 6 feet above bridge and northern end of the causeway being carried away (Minutes 2 April 1914).</li> <li>• Causeway repaired by Public Works Department (Annual report 30 June 1914).</li> <li>• Occupation of land by the Military. Trust complains that the Military have disfigured rocks by carving their names into them (Minutes 8 October 1914).</li> <li>• New dressing shed erected at Percival's Boatshed (formerly Sainty's) at the Wharf Area November 1914.</li> </ul>
1915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military camp removed from Bobbin Head having camped in the Trustees buildings (Minutes 8 April 1915).</li> <li>• Percival erects new shed close to the old building on the Wharf Area for serving luncheons, afternoon teas etc. (Annual report 30 June 1915).</li> <li>• New tank erected at (Percival's) Wharf Area to supply ladies lavatory with water (Minutes 12 August 1915).</li> </ul>
1916	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400 tons of stone for Bobbin Head sea wall 'spauled and pointed' (Minutes 12 October 1916).</li> </ul>



P21. Wharf Area with new jetty (source: NPWS Archives)

1917	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea wall at Bobbin Head for the reclamation of the flat (which had gradually silted up on the point between Cowan and Cockle Creeks) nearly completed and waiting on the dredge to move silt from the channel of the Creek inside the enclosure (Minutes 12 July 1917).</li> </ul>
1918	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seawall nearing completion, following which use of sand dredge will be obtained from Dept. of Public Works (Annual report 11 July 1918).</li> </ul>
1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bridge over Cockle Creek deemed unsafe, barriers erected and road closed (Minutes 9 September 1920).</li> </ul>
1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repairs begin on bridge with 4 men camping on site (Minutes 13 October 1921). Repairs completed and road reopened in December.</li> </ul>
1922	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horse and cart maintained along (Colah Road) Bobbin Head Road for doing repairs at 21/6 per day (Minutes 9 February 1922).</li> <li>Dredging of the channel of Cockle Creek and reclamation of area at foot of the headland starts 24 September (Minutes 12 October 1922) and is completed by November with drain laid to dry the reclaimed land, levelling off and top dressing still to be done.</li> </ul>
1923	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New wharf constructed at end of the causeway Orchard Park and wooden steps at the Wharf Area renovated (Minutes 8 February 1923).</li> <li>Although reclaimed land not ready for building operations, Mr Joseland (honorary architect to the Trust) draws sketch plans of suitable building for an accommodation house (Minutes 12 April 1923).</li> <li>Top dressing of the flat at Bobbin Head reclamation complete and sown with grass seed. Area is fenced to keep visitors off until grass is grown (Minutes 13 September 1923).</li> </ul>
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee Mr H Joseland prepares plans for 'Accommodation House' to be erected with estimated cost £5000 (Annual report July 1924).</li> </ul>
1925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee Mr H Joseland requested to prepare plans for 6 motor sheds with wire netting divisions and timber to be erected in place of the horse stalls on the southern side of the causeway (Orchard Park) (Minutes 5 April 1925).</li> <li>Minister for Lands Department forwards decision to the Trust stating: horse stalls to be relocated to (Foleys' Bay) Wharf Area side of causeway, Dept. Of Public Works to prepare cost estimate to reclaim ½ acre of land as a space for car parking, reclaimed land northeast of Refreshment Room to be used for car parking, additional temporary car sheds to be erected adjacent to present garages on the land vacated by horse stalls (Minutes 14 May 1925).</li> <li>Decision made by Trust to restrict parking of cars to Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only and that no camping on the reclamation be allowed (Minutes 9 July 1925).</li> </ul>
1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conceptual drawings of a roadhouse developed for Bobbin Head.</li> </ul>





P22. Orchard Park Wharf Area (source: NPWS Archives)



P23. Orchard Park and South showing numbers of cars (source: NPWS Archives)

- 
- 1927
- April- Storm damage to bridge, road and wharf. Application is made to Minister for Public Works for financial assistance for restoration works.
  - June- Restoration works begins on Bridge over Cockle Creek with Department of Public Works labour. Estimated cost of works £1250/-. New bridge to be located 40 feet northeast of old structure, to keep clear of the old foundations (Minutes 14 July 1927).
  - Request is made to Mr Cann Minister for Department of Labour for funding for restoration of the road and rebuilding of the wharf.
  - Tenders called for Guest House at Bobbin Head, for a building lease of 21 years for the site on condition that the lessee erects a guesthouse in accordance with plans and specifications already approved. Waiting on Department of Lands approval (Annual report 13 July 1927). Call for tenders authorised in December.
  - 30 September- New (upper) dam completed at (Foley's Bay) Wharf Area with capacity of 13,250 gallons.
  - 16 December- received notice from Public Works Department that neither dredge or funds are available to reclaim parking space at Bobbin Head (Presidents report 13 January 1928).
- 
- 1928
- Turramurra Bus Company run services from Turramurra to Bobbin Head.
  - David Lorrimer applies for and is granted approval to erect boatshed and sliprails near Bobbin Head wharf (Minutes 12 January 1928).
  - Tendering for Guest House at Bobbin Head begins.
  - Dr. Pockley (trustee) requests Department of Public Works to complete work on bridge across Cockle Creek (Minutes 9 February 1928).
  - Mr R B Orchard joins the Trust and suggests charging small fee of 6d. or 1/- for every motor car passing through the gates. The Board does not support the suggestion. (Minutes 9 February 1928).
  - Decision made to submit an application to the Minister for Lands for executive approval for charging a parking fee of 1/- per day for all vehicles entering any parking areas set aside by the trustees for that purpose (Minutes 28 April 1928). Monies to be devoted to construction of road from Turramurra gates to Bobbin Head along Cockle Creek (Minutes 10 May 1928).
  - June- £10,000 is made available from the Minister of Labour and Industry for the construction of a new road from Turramurra Lodge to Bobbin Head
  - Mr Orchard obtains £2000 for the purpose of making a parking area.
  - July- meeting to be held between Mr Orchard and then President Mr Robert Hollis regarding the planting of ornamental trees. Tree planting discussed with Mr Roper (Under Secretary- Department of Labour) and Forestry Department. Forestry Dept. promises to bring Mr Golian from Gosford to go over ground and advised Trust make contact with Mr Ward at the Botanic Gardens (Presidents report 12 July 1928).
  - August- Improvements made to Male toilets including addition of a wash basin.
  - Mr H Joseland prepares sketch plans for proposed ladies lavatories at the northern end of the garages (Orchard Park) (Minutes 2 November 1928).
  - Mr R Hollis draws up plans for wharf and proposal for concrete mould for the piles. Wharf is completed by December.
  - December- decision made to allow one way traffic only on Bobbin Head following opening of the new road.
-



P24. Revetment wall to Gibberagong Park complete (source: NPWS Archives)



P25. Early swimming enclosure adjacent to Orchard Park (source: NPWS Archives)

- 
- 1929
- January- Arrangements made for Mr Downey to run a stone wall right across the flat from past the bridge so that the area can be dredged to fill up the entire space for a parking area (President's report 14 February 1929). Work begins in March and two retaining walls finished by July. Awaiting dredge (Presidents report 11 July 1929).
  - (Farrar Avenue) Bobbin Head Road completed (unemployed men working on construction camped in tents set up inside entrance gates at North Turramurra). Official opening held 18 May by Acting Premier E A Buttenshaw.
  - October- Dredge Neptune arranged to fill in reclaimed areas at a cost of £5000. (Presidents report 14 November 1929).
- 
- 1930
- January- Dredge removed following partial completion of the Wharf Area only and is top dressed with soil (President's report 13 February 1930). Agricultural Debt. is consulted for best grass seed for sowing on reclaimed area- Kikuyu is recommended.
  - 5 horse stalls to be converted to garages.
- 
- 1931
- May- By law introduced banning motor cycle racing at Bobbin Head.
  - Trust enters into contract with Mr Sydney Cole Snr (fisherman) to cut 40,000 mangrove sticks at £2/5/- per 1000 along Cockle Creek to allow for oyster cultivation (Annual report 7 July 1931).
- 
- 1932
- Hon R B Orchard (1873-1942) appointed new President of the Trust.
  - January 14, Trust received £4,000 as unemployment grant relief funding for road widening and general repairs to (Farrar Avenue and Colah Road) Bobbin Head Road.
  - Stone septic tank lavatory for men and women constructed by labour from Department of Labour and Industry under supervision of Metropolitan Engineer Mr Green (Annual report 14 July 1932).
  - Decision made to relocate headquarters for the Cowan Section of the Chase to Bobbin Head and that a residence be provided for the foreman. In order to avoid delay, a suggestion is made for the transport and reconstruction of existing cottage at Towlers' Bay to Bobbin Head. (Minutes 27 October 1932).
- 
- 1933
- Parking fees to be spent on improving Bobbin Head including the provision of swings, seesaws etc.
  - Suggestion made instead of filling in part of the area of Cowan Creek, should be converted into a swimming pool instead (Minutes 11 May 1933).
  - May- Erection of 6 shelter sheds / rest houses on the areas set aside for parking of cars and the erection of 3 sets of swinging boats for children.
  - Proposal made to blast rock away for new garage site.
  - President's (R B Orchard) proposal regarding planting of trees formulated after receiving report from Mr G Cooper with the collaboration of Dr. Antill Pockley (Trustee) (Minutes 26 May 1933). Area still to be top dressed and grassed though planting of 'flowering trees, shrubs and creepers" is underway (Annual report 13 July 1933).
-



P26. Orchard Park with picnic shelters' and early plantings. (source: State Library of NSW/ID No. 8927)



P27. Orchard Park with Pavilion and early plantings (source: NPWS Archives)



P28. Bobbin Inn c.1938 (source: NPWS Archives)



P29. New retaining wall along Orchard Park (source: State Records of NSW/ID No.12932)

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- 1934
- Extensive planting of trees and plants in Bobbin Head (gift from Sydney Council and Vaucluse House).
  - Recommendations proposed for improvement works include planting row of shade trees *Lagerstroemia* and *Lofestemon* (Crepe Myrtle and Brush Box) on large parking area, parallel to the rock wall, construction of new wharf north-east of the reclaimed area and removal of bathing sheds at Apple Tree Bay and erected below the bank off (Colah Road) Bobbin Head Road (Minutes 1 February 1934).
  - April- Trust receives gift of over 100 trees from Mr T U Shakespeare, President of Vaucluse House Trust and a quantity of Canna Bulbs from City Council (Minutes 12 April 1934).
  - Additional three shelter sheds erected on Wharf Area in front of Brown's boat shed and garages on Orchard Park area near causeway removed to east side against cliff (Annual report 12 July 1934).
- 
- 1935-36
- Pavilion, 12 picnic shelters and septic tank lavatory block for the use of picnic parties erected.
  - Repairing of roads and clearing track from Bobbin Head to Waratah Bay via Apple Tree Bay Baths. Work undertaken by 30 men via a grant from the Unemployment Relief Council.
  - Additional exotic tree planting within Orchard Park – Norfolk Pines
  - Boatshed built by Mr J Duffy on site of present day The Marina
  - New wharf, baths and powerhouse / lighting plant constructed
  - Foundation stone of Bobbin Inn laid by Hon RB Orchard
- 
- 1936-37
- Boatshed and dwelling (Wharf Area), roadhouse and dwelling (Orchard Park), powerhouse and lighting plant (Orchard Park), new wharf and petrol wharf for the use of boatshed (Wharf Area) erected from loan by Unemployment Relief Council.
  - 10 March 1937- Official opening of roadhouse, named 'Bobbin Inn' and dedication of the resumed area as 'Orchard Park'. Bobbin Inn provides meals, refreshments and entertainment.
  - Construction of 1300 ft (396 m) long retaining wall up Cockle Creek- awaiting dredge for area to be filled.
- 
- 1937-38
- Sydney County Council extends the main supply of electricity from Turramurra entrance to Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Flat, providing lighting of Orchard Park and the road to the boatshed.
  - DMR completes tarring and metalling of main road through the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park from Turramurra Entrance to Bobbin Head Road Entrance. Arrangements are made for the DMR to tar and metal the flat in front of old boatshed (east side), the road to the new boatshed and the roads around Orchard Park.
  - New retaining wall built at Cockle Creek.
  - Road from Bobbin Head to Apple Tree Bay constructed.
- 
- 1939
- Tarring and metalling of parking areas.
  - Conversion of old powerhouse to cottage for Chef at Bobbin Inn.
  - Bus Waiting shed constructed and additional shelter shed.
- 
- 1940
- £500 spent on additions to Bobbin Inn.
- 
- 1941
- Ranger's Cottages, stone building of three rooms including accommodation for Ranger, Ambulance room and Chief Rangers' office are constructed by Trust staff (Wharf Area).
  - Shark proof net is placed across the southern side of the bridge providing a swimming area at Bobbin Head.
  - Merry-go-round is installed at Children's Playground, Orchard Park.
  - Maintenance works including the painting of the shelter sheds at Bobbin Head.
-



P30. View of shark proof netting over Cockle Creek (source: NPWS Archives)



P31. Orchard Park Wharf Side c. 1940s (source: NPWS Archives)



P32. Temporary military footbridge over Cockle Creek (source: NPWS Archives)

1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge over Cockle Creek washed away by storm, Military withholds permission for work on a replacement bridge to proceed.</li> <li>• Naval and Military authorities removed all boats moored at Bobbin Head, resulting in reduction in rents for boatshed and Bobbin Inn.</li> </ul>
1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of shark net (washed away in 1942 floods) with the co-operation of Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby and Randwick Councils. Replacement netting is former shark-proof net from Coogee.</li> <li>• Erection of a foot bridge by DMR across Cockle Creek.</li> </ul>
1944	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair of road from Bobbin Head to Apple Tree Bay (at a cost of approximately £600).</li> <li>• Hikers track constructed linking Bobbin Head to the St Ives area.</li> </ul>
1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quote obtained for further reclamation works for an extension to Orchard Park (£7000/-).</li> <li>• Arrangements made for piles to be erected for a temporary traffic ridge to be erected by DMR, across Cockle Creek.</li> </ul>
1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMR builds temporary one-way traffic bridge over Cockle Creek.</li> <li>• Masterplan submitted to NSW Government for proposed park upgrade as an international tourist attraction.</li> <li>• Reclamation works underway at Bobbin Head for extension to Orchard Park to provide additional playing and parking areas. Other necessary works are the rebuilding of the retaining walls, a large area of which was destroyed in the 1942 floods.</li> </ul>
1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans prepared for the extension to Bobbin Inn to provide staff quarters and additional space for cooking and serving meals.</li> </ul>
1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top dressing, planting of grass and shrubs at newly reclaimed extension to Orchard Park.</li> <li>• Additional wing to Bobbin Inn erected.</li> <li>• Kiosk erected to southern side of the bridge (Stone Kiosks operating include Bus Stop Kiosk, Kiosk No 2 Orchard Park, Annexe Kiosk, Bobbin Head Fish Shop, Dressing Shed Kiosk, Apple Tree Bay Kiosk).</li> <li>• Repairs to original retaining wall around Orchard Park commences.</li> </ul>
1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensions to Bobbin Inn (extra seating for meals and cabaret upstairs).</li> </ul>
1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust staff take over the completion of works to the newly reclaimed area at Orchard Park left uncompleted by the Department of Public Works contractor-topping with soil, grading and drainage works.</li> <li>• Block of 11 garages built with small kiosk at one end (later adapted as small flat, now The Station).</li> <li>• Miniature railway installed.</li> <li>• A block for staff quarters completed to house the Bobbin Inn staff.</li> <li>• Works to 'old area of Orchard Park' and the turning area on the eastern side involving the construction of heavy stone retaining walls to prevent erosion following tidal flooding.</li> </ul>



P33 View of Orchard Park showing Gibberagong Park filled in (source: NPWS Archives)



P34. Wading pools constructed along Cockle Creek (source: NPWS Archives)



P35. Pre stressed concrete bridge across Cockle Creek, c.1956 (source: NPWS Archives)

1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting of suitable shade trees in Gibberagong Park complete with grass to be planted.</li> <li>New children's playground opened and camping site set aside at the extreme southern end of newly reclaimed area.</li> <li>Dressing sheds erected at southern end and concrete steps laid down to water's edge for bathers' convenience.</li> <li>Construction of solid stone wall to eastern side completed, eroded areas filled up and bitumen surface laid over by DMR.</li> <li>Substation in process of being constructed to take increase electrical load.</li> </ul>
1953	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bobbin Inn- verandahs and upstairs cabaret glassed in with louvres, flooring extended over the tiled verandah and intervening walls removed thereby enabling the cabaret to accommodate 200 diners.</li> <li>New area of Orchard Park South and Gibberagong Park topped with soil, graded and drained and 2000 tons of loam levelled and buffalo roots planted over the whole area.</li> <li>Work continues on the new retaining wall and filling in the old section of Orchard Park.</li> </ul>
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New toilet block, including septic tank constructed and the old building altered, strengthened and modernised.</li> <li>Two new shelter sheds erected.</li> <li>New Diving platform and swimming pool constructed.</li> <li>Extension of the ballroom at Bobbin Inn and the addition of a patio-annexe.</li> <li>8 chains (243 m) of the seawall on eastern side been rebuilt with a further 6 chains (182 m) between the wharf and boatshed to be completed by the Trust staff.</li> <li>DMR repairs and resurfaces turning area and road to the boatshed (Wharf Area).</li> </ul>
1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly reclaimed area of 'Orchard Park' kerbed and guttered and general improvements following the completion of the planting of grass.</li> <li>New seats and tables erected.</li> <li>Platform and decking laid from shore to swimming pool.</li> <li>Construction of DMR prestressed concrete bridge underway.</li> </ul>
1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New pre-stressed concrete bridge opened in June and official opening ceremony by the Commissioner of Main Roads held on 1 September 1956.</li> <li>Children's wading pool installed in Gibberagong Park.</li> <li>Arrangements underway for further reclamation to occur along Cockle Creek on southern side of Orchard Park.</li> <li>Bobbin Inn operating as a Restaurant and Cabaret venue.</li> </ul>
1958	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cockle Creek dredged in order to reclaim and develop further playground and parking areas in the area- to provide additional playgrounds close to the wading pool. Cost of work £1626/-.</li> <li>Canoes and paddle boat made available for hire.</li> </ul>
1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations in place with DMR for the interior roads to be kerbed, guttered and bitumen sealed.</li> <li>Septic tank system overhauled and extended with the cooperation of Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils.</li> <li>Trustees' houseboat is renovated by private contractor.</li> </ul>
1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre built.</li> </ul>



P36. Field Studies Centre and original garages located in Orchard Park South, c.1987 (source: NPWS Archives)



P37. Play area located in Gibberagong Park, c.1987 (source: NPWS Archives)



P38. Aerial view of Orchard Park & Gibberagong Park, Bobbin Head, c. 1981 (source: NPWS Archives)

1964-65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of part of roof of Bobbin Inn and whole roof of Bus Stop Kiosk (Wharf Area).</li> <li>• Repair of seawall.</li> <li>• Painting of Bobbin Inn staff quarters.</li> <li>• Construction of storeroom.</li> <li>• Dismantling of Trustees' houseboat and removal.</li> </ul>
1967	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ku-ring-gai Chase gazetted as a National Park managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. Under the new management the formal landscape design replaced by native planting (practise of Norfolk Pine plantings along water's edge continued).</li> <li>• Educational Field Studies Centre – 4 bedrooms converted into a seminar room and office accommodation.</li> <li>• Superintendent's Office removed from stone building to above garages near the Marina.</li> </ul>
1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New colour scheme introduced to replace 'garish colours previously used'. (Ku-ring-gai Chase Local Committee report to National Parks and Wildlife Service, 3 May 1968).</li> </ul>
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Directory– timber structure with tiled roof erected in Orchard Park.</li> </ul>
1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal put forward by National Parks and Wildlife Service for improvements including the provision of additional lawn covered areas with water frontage for use by picnickers, elimination of extended vehicle parking, additional parking spaces for buses and paying day visitors, additional and improved boat landing points and facilities for ferry passengers and private boats, removal of garage buildings, removal of vacant stone buildings (former Ranger offices), removal of stone shelter shed, removal of stone kiosk building (used by Nationwide Restaurants Pty Ltd).</li> </ul>
1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bobbin Inn closed to public due to lack of patronage (reopens in the early 1990s).</li> </ul>
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New wharf with accompanying landscaping completed (cost \$175,000).</li> <li>• Improvement and maintenance works including revitalising shelter sheds with a return to the original paint finish and repairs to sea walls.</li> <li>• Proposed works to include additional children's playground equipment, new landscaping plans developed, traffic layout developed including a new area for parking, proposal to close Orchard Park completely to traffic with lawn to be added up to the water's edge.</li> </ul>
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovations to the interior of Bobbin Inn undertaken.</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovations to the interior of Bobbin Inn.</li> </ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan of Management for the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves produced (National Parks and Wildlife Service).</li> </ul>
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Management Plan, Tree Masterplan and Masterplan for Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay prepared.</li> </ul>

## 2.8 The Designers

### 2.8.1 Howard Joseland (1860-1930), Architect

Born in Claines, Worcestershire, England in 1860 to Richard Joseland, wine merchant and wife Elizabeth Katherine (Voss). Howard Joseland trained as an architect, being articled to Haddon Bros. at Hereford before going to London in 1881 as assistant to George Robinson, art director for the architectural firm George Trollope & Sons. Due to ill health attributed to over work, Joseland emigrated to New Zealand in 1886 seeking a better climate and worked for six months on the Auckland railways. After visiting Australia, in 1888 he settled in Sydney, marrying Isabella Alice Taylor. Soon after arrival, Joseland went into partnership with Walter Liberty Vernon. In 1899 Joseland and Vernon won a design competition for a model suburb to be developed as Kensington. In 1890, when Vernon became Government Architect he invited Joseland to take over his practice and in 1903 he took into partnership his former pupil Hugh Vernon, Walter's Son.<sup>129</sup>

Although Joseland's work always included a variety of building types, the greater part of his practice was domestic architecture. In the 1900s Joseland built himself a modest house in the Arts and Crafts style on the North Shore. This won him numerous commissions on the upper North Shore for the architectural company Joseland Gilling & Partners. A notable early work was Redleaf, a large house built in 1899 in the Arts and Crafts style with extensive grounds. He also designed Westholme, at Wahroonga, in the Arts and Craft style. His designs incorporated touches of Lutyens, Stanford White, Horbury Hunt and WL Vernon. Joseland died at Darlinghurst on 20 July 1930, survived by a daughter of his first marriage and a son and daughter of his second.

Howard Joseland was Honorary Architect for the Trust and was involved in developing architectural and sketch plans for Bobbin Inn, various dressing sheds and toilets for Orchard Park.

*(National Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life; State Theme: Creative Endeavour)*

## 2.9 Comparative Analysis

### 2.9.1 Introduction

The concept of an urban park, or people's park, initially grew as a result of the spread of industrialisation throughout the Western World during the nineteenth century. Prior to this the term 'park' (originating in England) meant a large enclosed piece of land usually with woodland and pasture. These were landscape parks of a rural nature which had the exclusive use of royalty or nobility, and were most often attached to a country house or mansion. The creation of landscapes for the use and enjoyment of the public is essentially a Victorian idea.<sup>130</sup> In the 1820s in Britain, J C Loudon was among the first to campaign for the provision of recreation grounds within Britain's overcrowded industrialised cities. They were viewed as improving living conditions and peoples health, as well as instructive places where all levels of society could mix, thereby promoting harmonious relations between classes.

In Sydney, open space initially consisted of a concept of the 'Bush', private grants, Government Domains and areas dominated by the Military or sporting facilities such as racecourses and cricketing grounds. The villa or garden was provided for the wealthy and the promenade for the poor. The first formal move towards providing such an amenity in Australia occurred in 1810 when Governor Macquarie announced that the area known by such names as 'The Common', 'Exercising Ground', 'Cricket Ground' and 'Racecourse' was 'intended in future for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants' of Sydney and directed that it be named Hyde Park.<sup>131</sup> By the 1840s, the urban dweller was beginning to demand a better working and living environment and there was increasing pressure from the public for more open space. Public walks were well established and in the 1840s their form began to be made wider to include the provision of organised games and beach and foreshore reserves were developed for recreation.

<sup>129</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol.9:18891-1934; Melbourne University press, p.524

<sup>130</sup> Burton C, 1993; Urban Parks of Heritage Significance, National Trust of Australia (NSW), p.11

<sup>131</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens, Oxford University Press, p.481



P39. Orchard Park and Orchard Park Wharf Area showing the collection of plantings (source: NPWS Archives)

In the 1850s and 1860s, the largest and wealthiest cities led the way in developing their reserves. In the main, European models influenced park design. Nineteenth century park plans, which frequently formalised earlier tracks across a reserve rather than incorporating any deliberate design, were rarely the province of professional landscape designers in Australia. More often they were prepared by engineers, architects, botanists, and horticulturists, for whom the creation of these landscapes was only a minor aspect of their work.<sup>132</sup>

The early parks and gardens varied greatly in style. They frequently had to contend with difficult terrain, as land set aside for recreation was often unfit for subdivision and sale and until the twentieth century less attention was paid to developing parkland for sport than to creating ornamental settings for other leisure activities.

### 2.9.2 Landscape Gardening in the 1930s

The turn of the century introduced a new climate of professionalism in horticulture and allied disciplines, with the establishment of schools (Burnley School of Horticulture, Melbourne 1891) and associations (Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science incorporating the first university chairs of botany at Melbourne 1905 and Sydney 1913). Many government agricultural departments were created late in the nineteenth century and they built on a scientific approach with the publication of journals bringing together the agricultural with the horticultural.<sup>133</sup>

By the inter war period, the urbanisation of Australia's capital cities were escalating and town planning became an imperative. Concern for unhealthy living conditions in inner-city areas activated middle class reformers to establish public parks and playgrounds. Increasingly, space in garden books began to be allocated to the planning of the garden and included schemes for the design of the suburban garden.

During the Depression years, parklands benefited from schemes to provide work and many ornamental gardens attained a high level of development and maintenance in the inter-war period. The parking of motor cars in parks also began during this period. Following the Second World War, ornamental gardens were simplified to save money. Paths and garden beds were grassed over, labour-intensive plants were replaced with shrubs, decorative features allowed to decay and in many instances, inappropriate community facilities introduced to avoid the cost of land acquisition.<sup>134</sup>

Elements of the predominant image portrayed during the inter-war period was one derived from the later Gardenesque style of the Federation period: curved drives led to neat bungalows, flower beds were sharply cut into the smooth green turf and trim cypresses and pergolas gave height to the garden.<sup>135</sup>

The Gardenesque style of landscape design can be seen to be represented within the early layout of Orchard Park. Central to the style was for single plants to be allowed to grow so that none touched another object and each displayed its character to the optimum. The term was first used in the early 1800s and was described as a style with 'beauty of lines, and general variety. Roundness, smoothness, freedom from angularity, and grace rather than dignity or grandeur'.<sup>136</sup>

The display of a variety of plant species is also an indicator of the Arboretum. Mostly used in its dictionary sense as a 'botanical tree garden', arboreta are mostly given a specific purpose, usually scientific, complementary to ornamental, educational or amenity aims. Although a few arboretum are privately owned, the majority form part of public open space and are owned by governments or other public institutions.

Orchard Park displays characteristics of the Gardenesque the Arboretum. Overall, Orchard Park presents as a semi formal park with diverse plantings and elements.

<sup>132</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.491

<sup>133</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.43

<sup>134</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.492

<sup>135</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.45

<sup>136</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.248



### 2.9.3 Pleasure Grounds

Leisure was initially a luxury in Australia, confined to those with requisite time and money; working people had to be content with a few public holidays, and limited amusements. By the mid-nineteenth century reduced working hours, including the Saturday half-holiday, made leisure time the preserve of the many rather than the few. The spectacle of Pleasure Gardens or Pleasure Grounds and amusement parks was available to all classes and visiting tea gardens and picnic grounds were also popular. Day trips to the seaside by steamer and riverside picnics could be enjoyed by all and with the advent of rail, travel trips to the beauty spots of the seaside and spa resorts also became popular forms of domestic tourism.<sup>137</sup>

Popular from the 1850s, pleasure grounds in Australia were based on London examples such as Vauxhall, Surrey Gardens and Cremorne. Originally referring to the ornamental grounds attached to a residence, pleasure grounds developed as public recreation areas providing attractions and entertainments, as well as catering for a range of passive and active leisure activities. Both Melbourne and Sydney established a Pleasure Ground known as 'Cremorne Gardens' and the Melbourne example included attractions such as an elaborate dancing rotunda, the pantheon Theatre, a 'Swiss Tree House', tight rope performances above the lake and firework displays over a huge modelled panorama and Australia's first hot air balloon ascent occurred there in 1858. Sydney's Cremorne Gardens established in 1856 at Mosman Bay was considerably less elaborate. People travelled to Cremorne by ferry and masked balls and picnics were the main activities.<sup>138</sup>

Public parks and gardens including Pleasure Grounds became popular places for strolling and public reserves were especially adapted for outdoor eating, catering for a leisure pursuit that had become popular in Britain in the early 1800s. In Australia a favourable climate, ample public land, and diverse scenery, saw camping and eating outdoors become standard aspects of Australian leisure. Picnics brought together families and friends, school and church groups and varied other community organisations. Fireplaces for barbecues, water pumps, outdoor furniture and pavilions were instilled in many to cater for growing picnickers demands. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, picnic grounds proliferated with increased motor car ownership. While originally favoured for their 'natural' attributes, many became highly developed, providing a range of public amenities, kiosks and adjunct leisure activities.<sup>139</sup> Orchard Park displays the typical range of recreation activities found in pleasure grounds and picnic grounds throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These activities include picnicking, camping, bushwalking, fishing, swimming, boating, educational field trips and children's playgrounds.

### 2.9.4 Playgrounds

The setting aside of areas specifically for children's play is of comparatively recent origin, with examples dating only from the 1880s in Europe and the USA. The earliest public playgrounds in Australia were established in the Sydney Domain, Moore Park and Centennial Park. They were seen as an innovation for Australia and tended to follow overseas examples of gymnasia with swings, trapezes, see-saws, parallel and horizontal bars and ladders of rope and wood.

Playground design has tended to generally reflect society's attitude to childhood. Initially middle class reformers saw playgrounds as vehicles for helping the poor and for lifting the moral tone of the community. Playgrounds were fenced to exclude undesirable outside influences and were often overseen by trained personnel. There was space for organised play and separate areas for boys and girls. Between the wars supervised and unsupervised playgrounds were constructed. Generally the design of playgrounds changed little, with metal pipe equipment replacing timber, and emphasis still remained on the acquisition of physical skills and the release of surplus energy.<sup>140</sup>

<sup>137</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.367

<sup>138</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.481

<sup>139</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.473

<sup>140</sup> Aitken R & Looker M (eds.), 2002; p.480



P40. Audley picnic grounds (source: National Library of Australia/ Pic- an 23381569-v)



P41. Kangaroo Creek, Audley (source: National Library of Australia/ Pic- an 3065842-v)

### 2.9.5 Comparative Sites

There are several extant historic pleasure grounds in the metropolitan Sydney area. Similarities include their proximity to water and suburban communities, the deliberate transformation of the bush to a recreational picnic ground, and their current location within national parks. They include the following

- Audley, Royal National Park;
- Athol Hall, in the former Ashton Park, Mosman, Sydney Harbour National Park;
- Nielsen Park, Vaucluse, Sydney Harbour National Park;
- Fairylands Pleasure Grounds, Lane Cove National Park;
- Captain Cook's Landing Place, Kurnell, Botany Bay National Park;
- The Dance Hall, Bantry Bay, Garigal National Park;
- Windy Banks Paradise, Waratah Bay, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

#### Audley, The Royal National Park

In 1879, the government of the time set aside a large tract of land to the south side of Port Hacking for the purposes of acclimatising various species to assist the newly established NSW Zoological Society. Formal dedication of The Royal National Park took place on 26 April 1879 with eleven park trustees, including the NSW Premier Sir John Robertson.

The early vision for the park included the conservation of resources to be exploited at some future date as well as the concept of improving on the natural condition by creating an imported exotic landscape familiar to that found in the northern hemisphere. The Deed of Grant empowered the trustees to set aside and use the lands for the following uses: ornamental plantations, lawns and gardens, zoological gardens, race course, cricket or any other lawful game, rifle butt or artillery range, exercise or encampment of military or naval forces, bathing places and any public amusement.<sup>141</sup>

Created to provide open space for recreation, the provision of recreational opportunities within the Royal National Park has been a prime management objective for the park throughout its history and the National Park Trust's efforts towards 'landscape improvement' are reflected in the work carried out at Audley with the establishment of a Pleasure Ground carried out in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the twentieth century.

By the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Audley has taken on the appearance of a small village offering visitor accommodation and a variety of amusements. Associated with these activities were service facilities including staff accommodation, boatsheds and a school. Access was either by rail, walking track or water.

Recreation was based on land and water with boating available at both Audley Weir Pond and the Port Hacking estuary. The creation of land based activities required clearing and grassing of the Flats to use as picnic areas. The Flats were extended and built up with dredged material from the Audley Weir Pond and planted with a variety of shade trees. The Flats were also the site for recreational buildings including shelter sheds, pavilions, kiosks and toilets.<sup>142</sup>

As with Bobbin Head and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, the late 20<sup>th</sup> century brought changes in attitudes to recreation which result in the removal of many of the early services. At Audley by the late 1970s, many buildings were demolished including Allambie House, (guesthouse), several worker's cottages, a concrete lookout, the kiosk, dressing sheds, swimming enclosures, tennis court, bowling green and the remains of the Kangaroo Creek Bridge. Attempts were also made to remove exotic vegetation that did not fit with the indigenous environment and work to improve some of the Flats included the extension of car parking areas and wharf structures to allow for improved foreshore access. New facilities such as toilet blocks, kiosk and National Parks' headquarters were designed to blend in with the natural environment.<sup>143</sup>

Audley is the principal pleasure ground within Royal National Park, Australia's first national park. Bobbin Head is the principal pleasure ground within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, the country's second national park. The pleasure grounds are similar in that both pleasure grounds were managed by a trust and were accessible by road and water. Audley catered to people from

<sup>141</sup> Draft Audley Masterplan, 2003, prepared for NPWS, p. 12

<sup>142</sup> Draft Audley Masterplan, 2003; p.62

<sup>143</sup> Draft Audley Masterplan, 2003; p. 63



*P42. Strawberry Gardens, 'The Rest', Upper Lane Cove (source: State Library of NSW/ PXA 635/451-473)*

Sydney's southern suburbs, while Bobbin Head provided facilities for Sydney's northern suburbs. One of the principal differences between the two parks was that Royal National Park, with Audley as its focus, was set aside for recreational purposes, while Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park was set aside for nature conservation. Audley offered a rich variety of recreational facilities and activities within a village style recreational parklands. By comparison, the pleasure ground at Bobbin Head was smaller in scale, without the sophistication and range of recreational activities found at Audley. In addition, the pleasure ground at Audley, designed in the late nineteenth century, is a much earlier example of a pleasure ground compared with the 1930s' design of Bobbin Head. Compared with Audley, Bobbin Head is therefore of lesser heritage significance.

Audley, a picnic ground and recreation complex, is listed on the State Heritage register (Listing No 00976).

### **Fairylands Pleasure Grounds, Lane Cove National Park**

Established as a private enterprise by the Swan family, the Lane Cove Fairylands pleasure ground operated from the late nineteenth century well into the 1970s. When portions of the Field of Mars Common were offered for sale, Robert J C Swan and other members of the family bought four portions with substantial frontages to the Lane Cove River. Portions 385 and 386 were destined to become 'Fairyland' and comprised approximately 17 acres of flat land with a small creek running across the site.

Robert Swan had part of the land cleared and initially developed as a market garden growing strawberries and watermelons. Picnickers and tourist boats began to stop to buy strawberries and were soon being offered afternoon teas with strawberries and cream. By 1905, the area had acquired the name 'The Rest' and between 1905 and 1910 the market gardens were phased out and the area became dedicated to recreation.<sup>144</sup>

An assortment of other picnic grounds existed along Lane Cove River including 'Judy's Arm' and 'The Quince Trees'. The Swan family however developed 'The Rest' by planting ferns, phoenix palms, pines and other exotics and provided equipment from other parks, creating the 'Fairyland Pleasure Grounds'. Boat swings came from Putney Park, and a razzle-dazzle, flying fox and ticket boxes came from the White City Pleasure Grounds at Rushcutters Bay. The recreation area was popular with school groups, tennis clubs and employee unions utilising the picnic grounds. Firms like Gartrell White brought many hundreds of employees and would reserve the entire grounds for the whole day. Firms and clubs organised sports programmes, including running races, sack races, egg and spoon races and other picnic games such as tug-o-war. Other diversions included cricket and dancing with the 'Fairyland' management providing a broadcasting service for racing and dancing.<sup>145</sup>

Boating was a popular activity in the first half of the twentieth century with charter boats carrying up to 60 or 70 people and row boats providing 'Fairyland' with its first visitors. Between 1908 and 1918 the Upper Lane Cove Ferry Company ran a service from Fig Tree as far as Killara, however by 1923, 'Fairyland' had begun to use its own boats and ran regular services. Motor car access was also provided for although car parking was limited and when the ground was dry around 120 cars could be parked in the area.

The reliance upon the river eventually led to the closure of the 'Fairyland' when in 1938 the Lane Cove National Park was formed and incorporated much of the orchard area above Fuller's Bridge. A weir was completed in that same year blocking access to the upper river by boat and in 1939 the Epping Road Bridge prevented larger boats from approaching the pleasure grounds. During World War II, the immobilisation of private boats and petrol rationing further reduced numbers of visitors. Following the war, other problems arose as the river became heavily polluted during the 1940s and 1950s by industrial effluents. A series of floods in the late 1960s forced a prolonged period of closure. The financial burdens of maintaining 'Fairyland' eventually became impossible for the remaining members of the Swan family and the pleasure grounds were sold in 1977, becoming part of the Lane Cove River State Recreation Area in 1978.<sup>146</sup>

Fairylands Pleasure Grounds are no longer extant their significance is historic at local level.

<sup>144</sup> Ryde Council, 1991; "Fairyland" Pleasure Grounds Lane Cove River, Library & Information Services Local Studies Leaflet Series No. 1

<sup>145</sup> Ryde Council, 1991

<sup>146</sup> Ryde Council, 1991



P43. Nielsen Park, Vaucluse (source: National Library of Australia/ Pic-an 23817203-v)

### **Nielsen Park, Vaucluse, Sydney Harbour National Park**

Initially established in 1803 as a private residence with cattle grazing, orchard and vegetable garden, Nielsen Park (formerly 'Woodmancote') passed through a number of owners until the site was purchased by William Charles Wentworth in 1827. Following the acquisition of the estate, Wentworth received a further 370 acres grant and he set about major improvements including extending the villa and erecting sandstone stables as a part of Vaucluse House. In 1847, Wentworths' daughter Fanny Katherine married the wealthy pastoralist John Reeve who subsequently purchased 14 acres of Vaucluse Estate fronting Shark Bay in 1850 and commissioned the architect John Frederick Hilly to design the villa 'Greycliffe'. The property remained as a residential estate being leased by a variety of families until 1911 when the land was resumed by the NSW Government for public recreation.<sup>147</sup>

The resumption of the residential property fronting Shark Bay was a result of a strong public movement which arose towards the end of the nineteenth century to prevent alienation of the remaining natural foreshores of the harbour. This took the form of the Harbour Foreshores Vigilance Committee, formed in 1905, who lobbied successive state governments to buy back privately owned foreshore land for the establishment of public parks. With William A Notting as its Honorary Secretary, the Committee was successful in persuading Mr R E Nielsen, the new Secretary for Lands, to establish the foreshores Resumption Scheme in 1911. The first acquisition under the scheme was the Greycliffe Estate, resumed on 21 August 1911, created as a public reserve and renamed Nielsen Park.

Covering 51 acres of land including Greycliffe House, Shark Beach, Bottle and Glass Point and the W C Wentworth Trustees land, a board of 8 Trustees was established to manage the new park and the first meeting was held on 24 May 1912. For the first 8 years, the Park retained its near natural appearance except for the construction of the first stage of the Kiosk and a number of small shelter sheds and the start of the promenade (Notting Parade) in 1918. The Nielsen Park Trust carried out a number of major works over the years, most supporting activities centred on the new swimming enclosure and beach promenade seawall. These improvements included new women's and men's dressing sheds and toilets, picnic pavilions and kiosk additions as well as improved access to the new ferry wharf.

Greycliffe House was used as a hospital from 1914 to 1934, known as the Lady Edeline Hospital for Babies under the direction of the NSW Ministry of Health. The hospital taught the importance of fresh air, breast feeding, strict routines and cleanliness. By 1935, the house became the third Tresillian Mothercraft Training School, known as Tresillian Vaucluse and continued as such until its closure in 1968.

In 1968, recognising that Nielsen Park was one of the few harbour side parks in Sydney at the time, the National Parks and Wildlife Service assumed management of the land and determined that it would remain primarily as a place for public recreation. Initial works included the removal of fencing to open up the beach area, banning of car parking and the removal of two picnic pavilions. A lack of maintenance and storm damage also led to the eventual demolition of the wharf and its pavilion in 1979 along with the nearby Women's dressing shed and bathing shed. Also removed were the swimming platforms, pontoons and diving tower in the enclosure and the fireplaces ashore in the Vaucluse Point area. Nielsen Park is a local heritage item.

<sup>147</sup> David Sheedy Architects Pty Ltd, 2005; Draft Nielsen Park Conservation Management Plan, prepared for NPWS, p.6

### **The Dance Hall, Bantry Bay, Garigal National Park**

Bantry Bay is an isolated site located in Middle Harbour. In the late nineteenth century as the metropolis of Sydney grew the isolation of Bantry Bay became a rare and cherished commodity that people yearned to visit. The special character of the area was recognised by 1879, when the land surrounding Bantry Bay was first set aside for public recreation purposes. The wild landscape restricted access and the steep and heavily wooded slopes, the tapered shape of the waterway, the quiet and lack of development gave area a romantic quality.

By the end of the nineteenth century, Bantry Bay had become a popular destination for Sydney excursionists and pleasure grounds had become a popular form of entertainment. Bantry Bay had the qualities desirable of a pleasure ground, situated on water, associated with a boat trip, with a picnic ground, landscaped garden and entertainment facilities. The new Balmain Ferry Company built a dance hall, terrace picnic ground, a dining room, several summerhouses, a caretaker's cottage and a large number of tanks, to provide fresh water, on 12 acres of land which they owned on the eastern shore. The entrepreneur, John Dunbar Nelson had begun a number of Middle Harbour ferry trips sometime around 1895. An advertisement from 1904 listed excursions to Balmoral Beach, Pearl Bay, Bantry Bay and Flat Rock. For a sixpenny ticket the excursionist could land at any of the designated stops while at Pearl Bay and Bantry Bay there was the addition of 'Swings and Merry-go-rounds, Summerhouses and Shady nooks, also Dancing and Dining Pavilions'. The ferries were provided with a band and the scenery was described as the 'Killarney of Australia' which added to the sentimental romance of the place<sup>148</sup>.

By 1907 the Dance Hall and picnic grounds were no longer used. Bantry Bay's period as a pleasure ground came to an end when it was chosen as the site for explosives storage. The pleasure ground was altered when the Magazines were constructed.

The pleasure ground at Bantry Bay is similar to Bobbin Head in that offered a similar variety of entertainment and was located on the water's edge. Unlike Bobbin Head access was dependent on ferry service, the land was managed by a private company rather than a public trust, Bantry Bay existed as a pleasure ground for only a short period and there was no reclamation of land to create the parklands. The pleasure ground at Bantry Bay operated for a relatively short period.

As the pleasure ground at Bantry Bay has long been demolished there is only historic significance at local level associated with its location on the site.

<sup>148</sup> Graham Brooks & Associates, Bantry Bay Conservation Management Plan (Draft), p22, [http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/PDFs/bantry\\_bay\\_draft\\_cmp\\_part\\_b2.pdf](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/PDFs/bantry_bay_draft_cmp_part_b2.pdf)

## 2.10 Historic Themes

The heritage values of individual heritage elements and parklands may derive significance as a result of what they contribute to their context and environment. Consideration of heritage values in this context involves an appreciation of the underlying historical influences that have shaped and continue to shape the area. Historical themes have been developed to allow categorisation of the major forces or processes that have historically contributed to the development of a heritage context or environment and provided a framework within which the heritage significance of an item can be demonstrated. Historical themes are considered on National, State and local levels.

### 2.10.1 National Themes

The nine national themes as developed by the Department of Environment and Heritage, address broad issues of the development of Australia as a nation, with the classifications related to Australia's natural evolution, peopling the nation, developing a range of economies, settling the economies, settling the country, work, education, government, cultural development and the phases of life in Australia.

### 2.10.2 State Themes

The 38 State themes as developed by the NSW Heritage Office (Department of Planning), sub-classified under the National themes, address the following:

- (Australia's Natural Evolution) the natural environment.
- (Peopling the Nation) Aboriginal, convict and ethnic origins, and migration.
- (Developing Local, Regional and National Economies) agriculture, commerce, communication, the cultural landscape, events, exploration, fishing, forestry, health, industry, mining, pastoralism, science, technology and transport.
- (Settling the Country) Urbanisation, land tenure, utilities and accommodation; (work) labour.
- (Education) education.
- (Government) defence, government and administration, law and order and welfare.
- (Cultural Development) domestic life, creative endeavour, leisure, religion, social institutions and sport.
- (The Phase of Life in Australia) birth and death, persons.

### Relevant Historical Themes

National	State	Local Application
Australia's Natural Evolution	Australia's Natural Evolution	Hawkesbury River catchment
Peopling the Nation	Aboriginal Culture	Original Owners and Occupation
Peopling the Nation	Convict origins	Smugglers
Developing economies	Developing local economies	Boat building, timber getting, recreational boating (houseboats and row boats)
Settling the Country	Land tenure	Establishing of a National Park
Phases of Life	Persons	E F Du Faur, R B Orchard and H Joseland
Cultural Development	Cultural Development	Conservation philosophy- protection of natural resources as instigation for establishing public park. Recreational areas and activities including Pleasure Grounds and picnic areas, children's playgrounds, bathing and boating.

**Major Historic Theme: Cultural Development**

- Establishing of a National Park.
- Introduction of conservation philosophy as instigation for establishing public park.
- Development of recreational areas including: pleasure grounds, picnic areas and children's playgrounds.
- History of recreational activities including: picnicking, camping, bathing and boating.

**Minor Historic Theme: Cultural Development**

- Access
- Exploitation of natural resources.
- Scientific uses
- Use of unemployed labour.

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## 3.0 Physical Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

Lynette Gurr and Kate Denny, Heritage Specialists of CM+ undertook the physical investigation during January and February 2006. Previous heritage reports and assessments were reviewed and information updated and reassessed for the purposes of this study. Any new items located during the site inspection were noted, descriptions given and photographically documented.

This section assesses the following aspects of Bobbin Head:

- Natural Environment
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Landform
- Cultural Landscape and Tree Species
- Soils
- Buildings
- Monuments, Furniture and Services
- Structures and Seawalls
- Surfaces
- Recreational Usage

Bobbin Head consists of both natural and cultural elements influenced by geological formation, fire and flood regimes, human occupation and patterns of land use. Bobbin Head is located on reclaimed land on the mudflats, and adjacent the lowlands. The associated approaches by road, rail, walking tracks and water have been integral to the development of the parklands.

For consistency across all documents, Bobbin Head has been divided into five sub-precincts. They are as follows:

- Wharf Area
- Orchard Park
- Orchard Park South
- Gibberagong Park
- Gibberagong South

These areas are described in Figure 2.7.

## 3.2 Natural Environment

### 3.2.2 Natural Areas – Geology and Geography

Refer also to the Natural Heritage Charter.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is listed on the Register of the National Estate for its scientific importance as a remnant of the natural environment of Sydney. Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, situated near the centre of the Sydney Basin, is a major structural unit of the Permian and Triassic age (200-250 million years ago) consisting almost entirely of horizontally bedded sedimentary rocks. During this time the Sydney region was a large freshwater lake which was slowly filled by deposits of sand, silt and pebbles. At the end of the Triassic period the area was uplifted to become dry land. These lands then began to weather and erode. The final vigorous period of erosion was during the ice age, when sea levels were much lower. Deep V-shaped valleys were formed in the plateau surface. Following the last glacial period, rising sea levels flooded the lower valleys and cut off some of the peaks.<sup>149</sup>

### 3.2.3 Flora and Fauna

Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 1.1, Flora and Fauna Report.

Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) prepared a Natural Heritage Report for the subject site for this Conservation Management Plan. Search information was obtained from the Department of Environment and Conservation's Atlas of Wildlife and Department of Environment and Heritage's Protected Matters database. Searches were obtained for a radius of 10km, 5km and 1km around the subject site for details of the likelihood of species occurring.

The following results were obtained:

#### Fauna

Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 1.1, Flora and Fauna Report.

The search found 52 x threatened vertebrate species; 21 x migratory species; 6 x threatened frogs; 3 x marine turtles; 2 x reptiles; 45 x birds (16 migratory); 9 x mammals; 4 x sharks; 2 x fish; 4 x whales; and dolphins

Threatened species within 1km include:

- Giant Burrowing Frogs
- Red-crowned Toadlet
- Rosenberg's Goanna
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Powerful Owl
- Spotted-tail Quoll
- Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern)
- Koala
- Eastern Pygmy Possum

#### Flora

Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 1.1, Flora and Fauna Report.

The search found 30 x threatened flora species (10km); 20 x threatened flora species (5km); and 3 x threatened flora species (1km).

Threatened species within 1km include:

- *Darwinian biflora*
- *Lasiopetalum joyceau*
- *Tetratheca glandulosa*

<sup>149</sup> NP&WS, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island Spectacle Island Nature Reserve, Plan Management (2002), p.10

### 3.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 1.2, Aboriginal Research and Analysis Report.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is listed on the Register of the National Estate for its abundance of Aboriginal sites. AMBS undertook a search of registered archaeological sites on the Aboriginal Heritage Information and Management Systems (AHIMS) maintained by the Department of Environment and Conservation. The search area comprised an area between the AMG co-ordinates 328E-330E and 6273N-6276N. This search showed zero (0) sites located within the immediate vicinity of Bobbin Head.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006, Melissa Clarke and Alison Nightingale of AMBS, together with Rowena Welsh-Jarrett and Nathan Lyons of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) and Brad Welsh (National Parks and Wildlife Service Aboriginal Sites Officer) conducted a site visit to Bobbin Head. As a result of this visit it was discovered that there were three (possible) unrecorded sites as follows:

- BH1 – located near Gibberagong Park, a small rock shelter with stratified shell midden deposits.
- BH2 – located west of Orchard Park, shell midden deposit which appears to have been excavated from the base of the scarp and dispersed during the construction of a drainage channel.
- BH3 – located near the Gibberagong Track footbridge, two hand stencils on adjacent rock faces. Possibly painted on rock face in past 20 years.

A detailed understanding of the Aboriginal heritage of the precinct will follow once the report is available from MLALC. Overall concerns and issues are associated with the existence of graffiti and vandalism and unwitting disturbance.

### 3.4 Landforms

The original natural landform was modified by reclamation for the creation of public recreation areas. The principal components include the following:

- Hill Slopes and Valley Walls.
- Reclaimed Flats.
- Tidal Estuaries.

#### 3.4.1 Hill Slopes and Valley Walls

The valley walls are the natural Hawkesbury sandstone formations that surround the parklands. The rocks of the area have been eroded over millions of years to form deep valleys and cliffs. Outcrops of the Narrabeen Group of shales and sandstones and small areas of Wianamatta Shale, together with variations in topography, have given rise to a variety of plant communities and over 1,000 different species of plants. The sandstone walls have been modified through quarrying. Dry sclerophyll forest and undergrowth vegetation grows on much of the valley walls.

#### 3.4.2 Reclaimed Flats

Recreational areas at Bobbin Head, namely Orchard Park, Orchard Park South and Wharf Area, were created by reclamation using fill on the mud flats. This land reclamation occurred in various stages between 1917 to 1930. The causeway to Gibberagong Park commenced construction as early as 1917, however, a solid sandstone seawall and infill was undertaken between 1948 and 1952. Gibberagong South was reclaimed in 1958.

#### 3.4.3 Tidal Estuaries

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park contains a tight cluster of winding creeks, sheltered beaches, hidden coves and wide expanses of deep water. The subject site comprises two creek formations:

- Cockle Creek
- Cowan Creek

These creeklines have been modified through various phases of reclamation. The water quality is said to be the one of the cleanest in Sydney's waterways. Mangroves grow along the south-western shore of Cockle Creek.

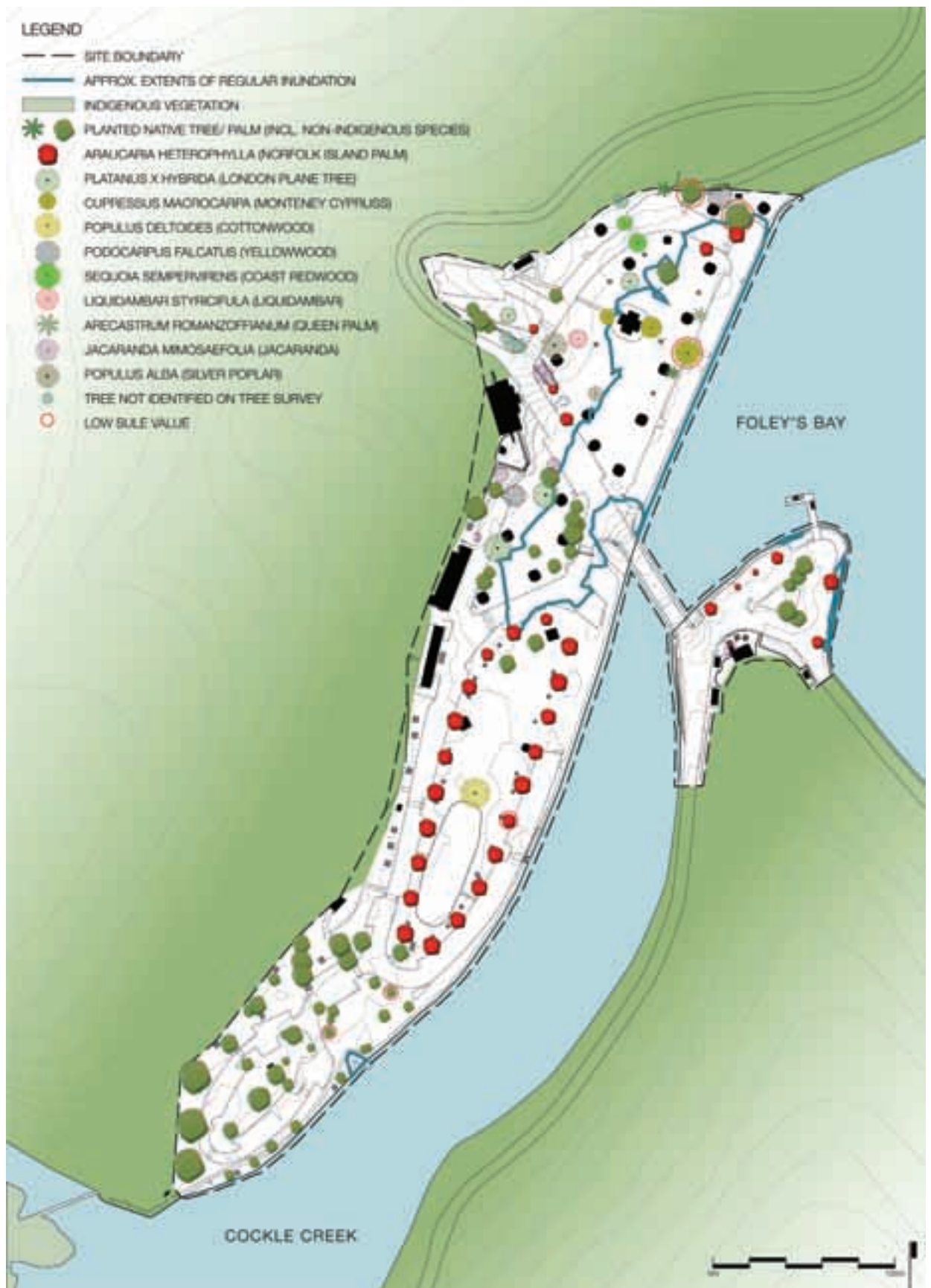


Figure 3.1. Existing Vegetation at Bobbin Head



P44. Coastal Redwood, Orchard Park  
(source: CM\*)

### 3.5 Cultural Landscape and Tree Species

Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 7.2, Concept Planting Plan.

The landscape design of the 1930s generally featured deciduous trees and exotic plants following the then popular planting principles for parks and gardens. Orchard Park plantings are comprised of principally exotic trees. When Orchard Park was opened the Hon RB Orchard, Trust President and principal orchestrator of park plantings said 'In a few years we shall have here a symphony in colour of unsurpassed loveliness, and visitors to Bobbin Head, particularly lovers of nature, will be able to feast their eyes on this wonderful scene'.<sup>150</sup> The character of the 1930s planting was to introduce a semi-formal park with diversity through the use of colour and exotic plant species. At Bobbin Head this contrasted with the indigenous vegetation of the slopes.

Tree plantings for Orchard Park were designed by the Trust led by the President, Orchard. The Trust was advised by G Cooper, Antill Pockley, the Forestry Department, Mr Golan from Gosford and Mr Ward of the Botanic Gardens. Tree plantings were undertaken in 1934 with trees provided by Vaucluse House and Sydney Council.

Although a handwritten concept planting scheme associated with Bobbin Head exist and describes plants proposed for the area, the date of the sketch is unknown and cannot be considered reliable evidence of intended plantings (Refer to Appendix 7.2). Early photographic documentation indicates that this planting scheme was not implemented. Trees noted in early photographs and still evident as existing plantings include the following varieties:

- Cypress
- Plane Tree
- Red Wood
- Poplar
- Jacaranda
- Norfolk Island Pine

Existing plantings at Bobbin Head (Refer to Figure 3.1) include the following:

- Coast Redwood
- Norfolk Island Palm
- London Plane Tree
- Monterey Cypress
- Native Palm
- Liquid Amber
- Queen Palm
- Jacaranda
- Yellowwood
- Silver Poplar

Generally, most plantings west of The Pavilion are in good condition, while plantings close to the foreshore and seawalls are in poor condition. Plantings identified as having low SULE (safe useful life expectancy) values include a Monterey Cypress (close to the foreshore) and two native plantings on the northern perimeter of the park.

<sup>150</sup> Florence Taylor, 'Development of Ku-ring-gai Chase, NSW' Building, Issue 12, February 1937

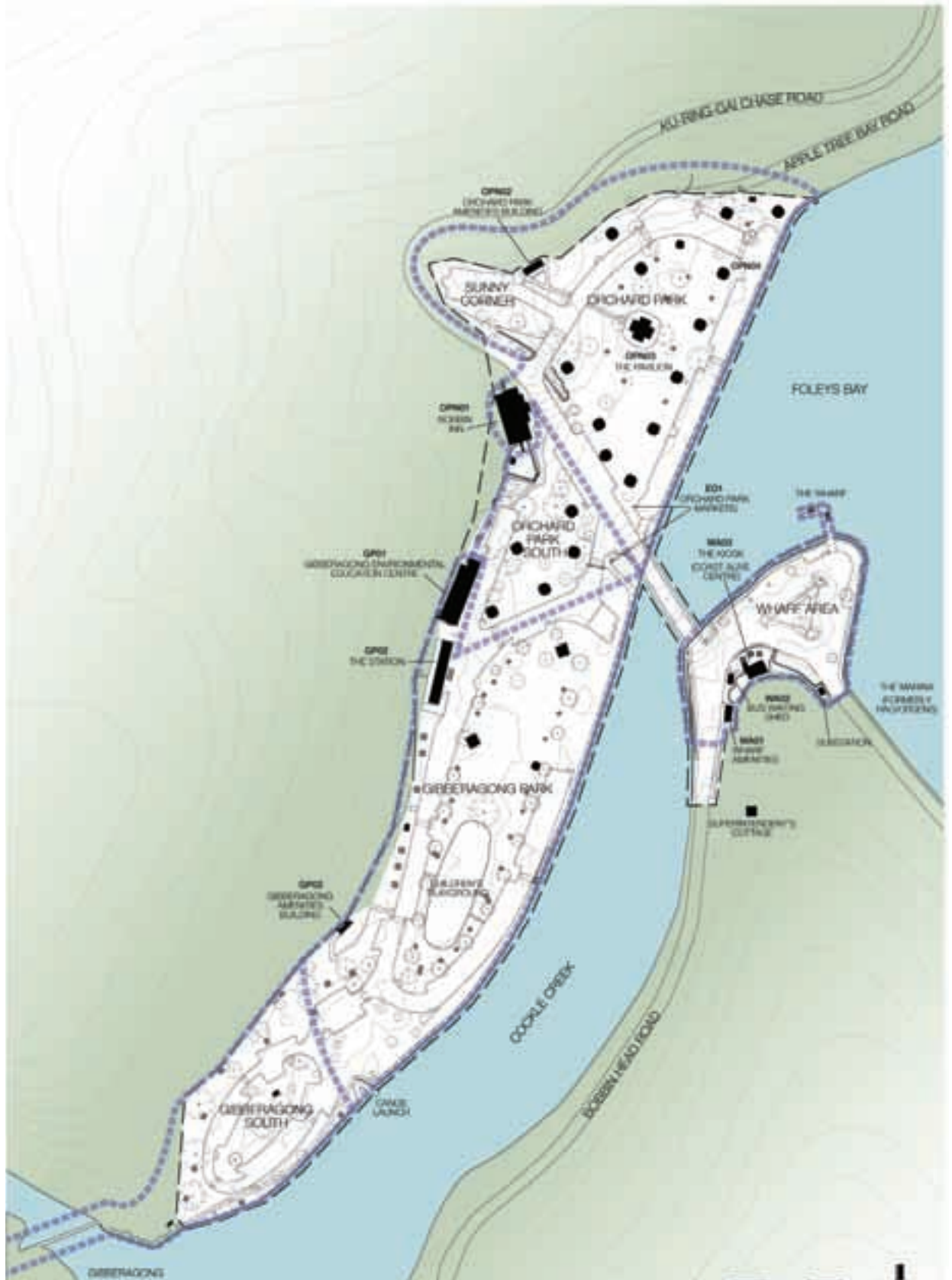


Figure 3.2. Location of Built Structures at Bobbin Head

### 3.6 Soils

Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 1.6, Improving soil conditions for Trees and Turf Report.

The following is a summary of the Soils Physical Properties prepared by SESL in January 2006 At Bobbin Head the different areas of Orchard Park and Gibberagong Park, are formed on in-filled estuarine bay. While dredging of the adjacent waterways may have contributed to some of the infilling, the surface metre or so is formed from imported material. Orchard Park indicates layers and lenses of clay soil of Wianamatta Shale origin. Close to the seawall the fill is silty / sandy, of dredging origin but not permeable. These silty / sandy soils do not provide a suitable rootzone for trees. The existence of dredged sandy materials close to the surface cannot be ruled out.

In a significant portion of Orchard Park closest to the seawall occasional inundation by saline tidal water occurs by movement of very high tides up the stormwater drains. The areas affected can be delineated by the absence of grass with bare soil areas showing salt efflorescence in dry weather. Trees in this area, particularly one of the original Cypresses, shows dieback and decline. Many others have been lost as a result of salinity. In addition, soil tests by SESL and TAFE (2005) show hyper-saline (salinity higher than seawater) in surface soils where ponding of seawater occurs.

In summary, the geological history for the parks has resulted in several problems:

- Subsidence resulting in levels prone to occasional tidal inundation,
- An 'inverted' soil profile with less permeable or impermeable material overlying coarse permeable sand. Natural soils never show this. Perched water tables will result following rain or tidal inundation.
- A complete inability for saline water to leach or be otherwise removed (eg by 'dams' formed by curbing and guttering) and hence evaporation leaving salt scalds is the only means of water being lost.
- Very low permeability and ponding meaning that rainfall and irrigation cannot function normally to desalinate the profile.
- In areas of the park not subject to salinity a non-existent 'A horizon' where trees grow essentially in the surface layer of clayey fill.
- Where alluvial topsoil was imported it has severely compacted into a massive unstructured mass preventing aeration and drainage.
- Neglect over many years of soil chemical properties resulting in severe acidity, potassium and other nutrient deficiencies. Trees and turf suffering nutrient deficiency are less able to cope with adverse physical properties also.
- Surface soils, which alternate between dry and saline and waterlogged, are a hostile environment for tree roots.

### 3.7 Built Structures

There are a number of buildings at Bobbin Head. A number of minor buildings were removed after 1967. Bobbin Inn and a number of stone buildings were built from Unemployment Funding throughout the 1930s. They include The Pavilion, Bobbin Inn, Amenities Building at Orchard Park, and the Amenities Building at Wharf Area.

Refer to Figure 3.2.

#### Built Structures – Wharf Area

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##### WA01 Amenities Buildings

**Description:** The Amenities Building built of local sandstone was constructed in April 1932 using the Unemployment Fund. Honorary Architect, Howard Joseland, prepared plans in 1928 for a ladies toilet; however, it is unclear whether these were used in the final construction as Joseland died in 1930. Metropolitan Engineer, Mr Green, supervised the work.

Sandstone walls on the North, West and South Elevations while the East Elevation is constructed in brickwork. A parapet conceals the flat roof with corrugated sheeting finish. Timber framed windows are located high on the East Elevation. Glazing has been removed and replaced with perforated steel grilles. Male and Female entry and door openings are located on the East Elevation. Access to both male and female toilets via eight (8) concrete steps. Interior of toilet is cement rendered with ceramic tiles. Male lavatory comprises three (3) toilets, urinal and basin; female lavatory contains three (3) toilets and basin.

The Amenities Building is elevated above ground to accommodate septic tank system beneath. Septic tank system evident east of building. Sewer pump is now in operation.

**Condition:** Structural cracking. Does not achieve Disability Discrimination Act compliance.

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P45. Bus Waiting Shed, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

##### WA02 Bus Waiting Shed

**Description:** Located on Bobbin Head Road, southeast of the Bridge. Constructed in 1939 (designer unknown).

Constructed in sandstone block work, the walls are approximately 1500mm high with paint finished timber posts mounted on top of the wall supporting the roof. The hipped roof has terracotta tiles (red with decorative green).

**Condition:** good

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P46. Stone Kiosk, 2006 (Source: CM\*)

##### WA03 Stone Kiosk - Coast Alive Centre

**Description:** Formerly an Ambulance Room / Ranger's Office / Accommodation (designer unknown) built in 1941.

Constructed by Trust staff in sandstone with flat roof. The building was later converted to a Kiosk adding two doors and a counter fitted with roller shutter. A timber frame window is located on either side of the counter area. The original walk-in entrance has been enclosed. The roof was retiled in 1964/65.

Cement paved area located around the building. 'Crazy paving' is located west of the building. Three timber picnic platforms have been erected in the area.

Coast Alive Centre currently operate from the building and offer free family activities including short walks, puppet shows, displays and stories on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month which operate from this converted stone kiosk.

**Condition:** good



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**WA04 Ferry Jetty and Wharves**

Historically, numerous wharves have been located in this area and have been associated with boat building and storage.

The existing wharf is constructed in timber. A small ferry service from Pittwater uses the wharf once a day.

***Condition:*** fair



P47. Bobbin Inn, East Elevation, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

## Built Structures – Orchard Park

### OPN01 Bobbin Inn

Description: Located at the intersection of Apple Tree Bay and Bobbin Head Roads. Sited adjacent a cliff face overlooking Orchard Park. Constructed 1936-37; with additions in 1949, 1950, 1954; Ground floor outside terrace added in 1996; and restoration works undertaken in 2001.

Architect unknown, however, Trust Minutes indicate it is likely to be the Honorary Trust Architect, Howard Joseland. Howard Joseland (1860-1930) was Honorary Architect for the Trust and probable designer of Bobbin Inn and the amenities building at Bobbin Head. Joseland's early architectural designs were influenced by the Queen Anne style while his later work was influenced strongly by the Arts and Crafts movement. Joseland Gilling & Partners prepared numerous architectural commissions on the upper North Shore. His designs incorporated touches of Lutyens, Stanford White, Horbury Hunt and WL Vernon. If Bobbin Inn was designed by Joseland it is one of his few Art Deco designs. Joseland prepared plans for the Trust in 1926 but died in 1930. Built in 1936, the building was opened on 5 March 1937 by the Premier BSB Stephens. Bobbin Inn was designed to serve refreshments and light meals and was leased to a variety of tenants. Dances, cabaret and jazz bands performances were held in the evenings.

Architect, Colin H Smith, prepared extensions in 1954. This included enclosing the upper dining area, providing a new staircase and additional kitchen and toilet facilities. These changes were sympathetic to the original design. The restaurant was closed in 1976.

Bobbin Inn is a two-storey building constructed in 'colourtux' red face brickwork with sandstone detailing. Designed in the 1930s Art Deco 'Ocean Liner' style. Roofing of Marseilles tiles (with modifications in 1964/65). Ground Floor contains indoor and outdoor dining areas and kitchen. The upper level contains dining / ballroom, staff quarters and outside terraces.

The terrace located south of Bobbin Inn and the external stair and storage located to the north was designed by Clive Lucas & Association in 1988.

Good condition with the following issues:

- Cracks in First Floor brickwork, south-eastern corner;
- Vegetation growing from brickwork above the main entry
- Cracks in the sandstone foundations, north-eastern corner
- Cracks in sill brickwork, First Floor at north-western corner
- Verandah disabled ramp is not BCA compliant.
- Upper floor and toilet access is not Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

Equal access issues to upper levels including toilet. Cracks are not considered structurally significant (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 1.7 Marine and Structural Engineering Report).



P48. Toilet Block, East Elevation, 2006 (source: CM\*)

### OPN02 Amenities Building

**Description:** Located in the western section of Orchard Park, near Sunny Corner. Constructed 1935-36 (designer unknown).

Constructed of rough-hewn sandstone blocks with a terracotta tiled (red and green) hipped roof. Wide eaves with timber slats used as lining. Two skylights in the roof are later additions. Timber-framed windows are located high on the southeast elevation. Glazing has been removed and metal perforated grille added. Floodlight type lighting mounted under the eaves. Door openings located on the Northwest Elevation. There are three (3) steps leading to Women's toilet, five (5) steps leading to Men's toilet. Circular steel piping used as handrail is non-BCA compliant in height.

Interior wall surfaces are concrete rendered with ceramic tile finish (possibly dating to 1970s) located on wall (to approx. 1500mm height from floor) and floor. Evidence of cracking on interior wall and floor. Sheet ceiling lines the ceiling and is possibly asbestos. Women's toilet comprises 4 WCs and 1 Basin. Men's toilet comprises 4 WCs, 1 urinal and 1 Basin.

**Condition:** Gutters and downpipes are in poor condition.

- Cracking up to 10mm in width at southeast and southwest corner and finer crack at northeast corner.
- Cracking appears to be associated with differential foundation settlement.
- Cracking not considered to be structurally significant, but should be regularly monitored.
- Concrete mortar used in pointing of sandstone has resulted in deterioration of sandstone. Eaves, in close proximity to structural cracking, are bowing. Toilet seat missing.
- Amenities Buildings are not Disability Discrimination Act compliant.



P49. Picnic Pavilion, South Elevation, Orchard Park, 2006 (source: CM\*)

### OPN03 The Pavilion

**Description:** Located centrally within the grassed area of Orchard Park. The Pavilion is a large picnic shelter, cruciform in plan, and is a feature of the park. The hipped roof is a dominant sculptural element comprising red terracotta tiles laid over a timber frame with a timber lantern mounted in the middle of the roof. A timber flagpole is mounted in the centre of the lantern. Ceiling lined with fibrous cement sheeting with no eaves.

Constructed: 1935- 1936 (designer unknown)

Timber columns support the roof structure. Each elevation has four columns. Four central columns support the inner section of the pavilion. Each column is bolt-fixed to steel brackets set into the concrete floor. These are replacement brackets added when a new concrete floor was laid.

The floor of the building is concrete slab on ground. The level of the concrete base has been raised. Early photos of the Pavilion show that the base was constructed as a platform above ground level. Cracking, possibly caused by settlement, is evident in the flooring. The area surrounding the pavilion suffers from seawater inundation from subsurface drains.

Picnic furniture inside the Pavilion is constructed of timber on steel tubing frame. A barbeque facility has been added to the eastern section of the pavilion.

**Condition:** General condition is fair.

- Consideration needs to be given to the structural stability of The Pavilion associated with subsidence.
- Disabled persons amenities to be reviewed.



P50. Picnic Pavilion, North Elevation, Orchard Park, 2006 (source: CM\*)



P51. Picnic shelter, Orchard Park, 2006 (source CM\*)



P52. Timber Rafters of Picnic Shelter, Orchard Park, 2006 (source CM\*)



P53. Information Structure, 2006 (source: CM\*)



P54. Information Structure, detail, 2006 (source: CM\*)

#### OPN04 1930s Picnic Shelters - Orchard Park

**Description:** Originally located throughout Orchard Park, Orchard Park South and the Wharf Area, 12 picnic shelters remain. Built in stages between 1933 and 1936. The shelters were originally located in an ordered pattern on both the east and west sides of Cockle Creek. The picnic shelters have been removed from the Wharf Area and some shelters relocated to west side. Changes are associated with road realignments and general reorganisation for parking.

There are two (2) types of shelter:

- Seven (7) High octagonal coned roof in flat sheet iron gently curving out at the edges and culminating with a timber finial at the apex; and
- Four (4) Low octagonal coned roof as above.
- One (1) Low octagonal coned roof picnic shelter replica. This is an additional shelter brings the total number of shelters in Orchard Park and Orchard Park South to 17.

All shelters are mounted on a concrete base in alignment with the grassed area. Each shelter is symmetrically divided into four compartments with timber benches and tables. The partitioning is of timber panels with timber lattice above. Height of shelter approximately 2000mm. Roofs painted red and picnic shelter green and cream. Water sprinkler attached to the finial of each shelter. One of the low roofed shelters is a replica made in 1990s - has ribbed roof surface and pine timber.

One low-roofed shelter has panelling repaired with smaller sized planks.

**Condition:** Evidence of rotting at the base of some timbers posts where they contact with the ground.

#### OPN05 Bobbin Head Information Structure

**Description:** Located north of Bobbin Head Road. Constructed in 1970.

Octagonal shaped timber structure mounted on an octagonal brick paved area. Steel bracing supports timber roof beams. Timber panel and lattice treatment of central partition imitates the picnic shelter construction. Interpretation panels located on both sides of the partition wall within the structure. P53 and P54.

**Condition:** Good condition.



P55. Causeway and Bridge 1910s  
(source: NPW Archives)

### OPN06 Vehicular Bridge, Bobbin Head

The principal crossing to Cockle Creek. Historic photograph shows the causeway and early timber bridge. Several bridges were destroyed with flooding.

A two-lane pre-stressed road bridge with metal railings of DMR construction supporting roadway between east and west sides of Cockle Creek. Plaque marked: 'DMR 1956'.



P56. Orchard Park Stone Revetment, 1930s (source: NPW Archives)

### OPN07 Seawalls

Construction of the stone revetment seawall commenced in 1911 as part of the first reclamation phase. The sandstone seawall near the Bobbin Head Bridge shows evidence of the earlier seawall construction. Photographic documentation indicates there are several layers of seawall construction. The seawalls were repeatedly repaired due to flood damage. The seawalls were initially revetment construction. The seawalls were increased in height in the 1930s as part of the unemployment relief works. It appears no foundations were constructed, rather the seawalls were built upon the reverents. In the early 1950s a new wall was added on the seaward side in front of the existing wall. The construction technique for this wall was a vertical mass wall constructed in solid blocks. It appears likely the earlier walls remain behind the existing wall.

In recent years further problems have been experienced with the seawalls. Sections of walls are in poor state of repair, due to excessive movement from settlement, slumping, rotation and collapse. Repairs have been undertaken in recent years, however, problems continue. Stormwater outlets are evident in the seawall construction.



P57. Orchard Park revetment, 1930s  
(source: NPW Archives)

The seawalls were initially constructed utilising locally quarried sandstone (former quarry site is in approximately to the Bobbin Inn area). Later repairs required sourcing sandstone from other quarries.

### Built Structures – Orchard Park South

#### OPS01 1930s Picnic Shelters

**Description:** In the 1930s six (6) Picnic Shelters were laid out in a triangular formation. This formation has been altered due the changed of configuration of the internal road, with the eastern-most shelter removed. There are currently five (5)shelters.

As per the Orchard Park Picnic Shelters, there are two (2) types in this area:

- a) Three (3) High octagonal coned roof in flat sheet iron gently curving out at the edges and culminating with a timber finial at the apex; and
- b) Two (2) Low octagonal coned roof as above.

**Condition:** Evidence of rotting at the base of some timber posts, where the contact with ground.



P58. Orchard Park Seawall, 1940s  
(source: NPW Archives)



P59. Orchard Park Seawall, 2006  
(source: CM\*)



P60. Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre, North Elevation, 2006 (source: CM\*)

## Built Structures – Gibberagong Park

### GP01 Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre

**Description:** Constructed in 1961 of besser blocks and pebble-crete panels (based on a design by RC Smith and Associates). Two-storey building has ten (10) garages and laboratory located at ground level. Residential accommodation and staff rooms are located on the first floor, together with kitchen, dining and living rooms. Additions were undertaken to the northern section in 2003. External steel stair connects to first floor at northern end and timber stair located at southern end.

**Condition:** Good condition



P61. Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre, South Elevation showing textured brickwork, 2006 (source: CM\*)

### GP02 'The Station' Picnic Area (former Garage)

**Description:** Constructed of sandstone blocks this building was formerly a block of 11 garages. The garages were built in 1951 and converted to a barbeque and picnic area in 1994. The southern end originally housed a kiosk.

Three timber frame windows are located on the East Elevation. Glazing has been removed and replaced with perforated steel grille. Skylights are installed in the terracotta-hipped roof over the toilet area. Two vents are located over each of the two barbeque areas.

At the northern end of the building a garage was converted to an amenities building comprising separate female, male and disabled toilets. Female toilet comprises two (2) WCs and one (1) double sink, Male toilet comprises one (1) WC, one (1) urinal and one (1) double sink. Ceramic tiles are fixed to the toilet walls

The central section contains fixed octagonal shaped tables and benches. The furniture is steel frame with timber slats to benches and tables.

Two stations of double gas barbeques are located within the picnic area. Disabled amenities to be checked for Disability Discrimination Act and BCA compliance

**Condition:** Good



P62. Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre, East Elevation, 2006 (source: CM\*)

### GP03 Amenities Building

**Description:** Located west of Gibberagong Park on the rise above the park. This Amenities Building was built in the 1954 when the land was reclaimed to create the park.

The Amenities Building is constructed of brickwork. On the northern side of the Amenities Building a ramped cement path leads to the male area while the southern ramp leads to the female section. The female Amenities Building contains four (4) WCs and washbasin while the male Amenities Building contains two (2) WCs, urinal and washbasin.

**Condition:** poor. Access to the building is not Disability Discrimination Act compliant.



P63. The Station Picnic Area, 2006 (source: CM\*)



P64. The Station Picnic Area, 2006 (source: CM\*)



P65. 1950s Picnic Shelters, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

#### GP04 1950s Picnic Shelters with tiled roof

**Description:** Located in Gibberagong Park is a third shelter type rectangular-shaped shelter with hipped terracotta tiled roof. (RSS)

Three (3) picnic shelters were constructed in 1954 and designed in a similar style to the 1930s octagonal-roofed Picnic Shelters. The shelters are square in shape with terracotta tiled hipped roof and designed with four partitions and triangular shaped picnic tables.

Former octagonal shaped concrete base is evident and has been extended to square shape design.

**Condition:** fair



P66. Cowan Creek, Date unknown  
(source: NPW Archives)

#### GP05 Seawalls

A series of seawalls were constructed along Gibberagong Park. The first seawall to be constructed was a revetment associated with reclamation for Orchard Park South in 1911. Various seawalls were constructed over the subsequent years in the current alignment. A solid sandstone wall was constructed in 1952. In the subsequent years various collapses of sections of the wall occurred due to flooding and structural failure. Repairs and additions present a mixture of construction phases. The wall consists of large blocks of various sandstone types. Sandstone is local and sourced from other areas.

Subsidence of the seawall and erosion of landfill behind the wall is evident and is an occupational, health and safety risk.

#### GP06 Canoe Ramp

Date of construction 1980s. Built in the location of the former children's wading pool (constructed in 1956).

The retaining wall to the ramp is constructed using concrete and sandstone blocks. The wall of the ramp utilises the sandstone seawall.

The concrete ramp is finished with non-slip pavers.

**Condition:** poor.



P67. Canoe Ramp, 2006 (source CM\*)

#### GP07 Sandpit and Playground

The sandpit was constructed in 1952 and is identified by the sandstone 'crazy paved' edging. A powder coated proprietary 'Cyclone' metal fence is erected around the perimeter of the sandpit (dates to 1990s) and encloses the playground. Crazy paving entry paths are evident as earlier path connections between the sandpit and the roadway.

Proprietary children's play equipment constructed from steel frame and PVC was installed in the 1990s.

**Condition:** Sections of the crazy paving have deteriorated in small sections. Playground equipment is in fair condition.



P68. Sandpit and Playground, 2006  
(source: CM\*)



P69. Footbridge, 2006 (source: CM\*)

## Built Structures – Gibberagong South

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### GS01 Footbridge, Gibberagong Track and Board Walk

A suspension truss bridge over the southern section of Cockle Creek was built in 2001 to form part of the Gibberagong Track.

Built in galvanised mild steel and timber. The bridge is constructed as steel trusses with asymmetrical cable stays and is tied to concrete and sandstone foundations with steel fixings. Timber decking is bolt-fixed to the steel framing.

**Condition:** good

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P70. Board Walk, 2006 (source CM\*)

### GS02 Board Walk, Gibberagong Track

The Board Walk comprises timber decking and handrails on timber cross joists, supported on concrete piles. Handrails comprise steel brackets at 100mm centres.

There is evidence of the board walk subsiding in sections. Some sections of the board walk are submerged during high tides.

**Condition:** prone to tidal inundation, subsidence.



### 3.8 Monuments, Furniture and Services

This section examines various elements within the park including

- Marker Monuments
- Seating
- Barbeque Facilities
- Picnic Tables, Benches and Garbage Bins
- Lampposts
- Signage and Wayfinder elements

#### Monuments, Furniture And Services - Orchard Park

##### E01 Orchard Park Marker and Drinking Fountain

**Description:** The monument comprises a pair of identical markers located either side of Bobbin Head Road northwest of, and in close proximity to, the bridge. They mark the entry to Orchard Park. Early photographs indicate that the monument to the south has been moved due to the construction of a series of replacement bridges. The monument to the north appears to have remained in the one location. The designer is unknown.

The monuments are constructed in red brick and sandstone in the art deco style, with stylistic qualities that echo Bobbin Inn. Drinking fountain elements are mounted on the two principal brick faces. The porcelain drinking fountain comprises fishhead shaped spout and shell shaped bowl. Glazing is green and cream. Lime green enamel lettering is mounted vertically on the sandstone to read 'ORCHARD PARK'.

The southern marker is concealed by causuarina plantings and its low placement.

**Condition:** Taps are non-operational, basins broken on southern and northern markers; evidence of eroding sandstone at base of monument possibly due to saline condition of the soils. The word 'PARK' is missing from the Monument on the south side of the bridge.



P71. Bobbin Head Marker, Orchard Park, 2006 (source: CM\*)

##### E02 Bench and Picnic Table

**Description:** Possibly dating to 1960s. Designed as single bench facing water with table. Frame of bench designed in formed concrete with timber slats (four on seat and two on back). Table has concrete base and tabletop. All bench and picnic table sets are mounted on a concrete base in alignment with the grassed area. Painted green and cream.

**Condition:** Poor condition.



P72. Bench and Picnic Table, 2006 (source: CM\*)



P73. Gateway, 2006 (source: CM\*)

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### E03 Bobbin Head Inn / Orchard Park Gateway

**Description:** Located adjacent to Bobbin Head Road and north of Bobbin Inn. Constructed in the 1990s.

Structure comprises timber frame with timber panel with timber lattice imitating the style of the picnic shelters. Circular steel section handrails act as support mounts. Area paved in brickwork.

**Condition:** Good condition

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P74. Gateway, 2006 (source: CM\*)

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### E04 Lamp Posts

**Description:** Two lamppost types were located throughout Bobbin Head. As the park is closed after dark there are few lamp posts. Steel tapered poles with hemispheric globe (lower half hemisphere is clear glass and upper half-hemisphere is metal) are located in Orchard Park.

**Condition:** Condition: One lamp post has the globe removed.

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### E05 Wayfinding Sign

**Description:** Two timber wayfinding signs are located at the corner of Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay Roads. Painted green and cream

**Condition:** Fair

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P75. Lamp Post, 2006 (source: CM\*)

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### E06 Tap Fixtures

Located on concrete slab with surface drain. Tap mounted on two vertical timber supports.

Some drain covers missing

**Condition:** Fair

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P76. Wayfinding Sign 2006 (source: CM\*)



P77. Washing Facility, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

## Monuments, Furniture And Services – Gibberagong Park

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### E07 Sandstone Washing Facility

**Description:** Date of construction unknown, possibly 1994 when 'The Station' was converted.

The sink is constructed as a rectangular sandstone plinth with a stainless steel sink installed. Ceramic tiles are fixed to the top surface.

**Condition:** Fair

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P78. Barbeque Shelter, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

### E08 Barbeque Shelters

**Description:** Dating to 1999. Located mainly throughout Gibberagong Park with one located in northern Orchard Park. Shelter comprises four timber posts supporting a rectangular gabled roof. Gable comprises latticework. Facilities include two gas-operated barbeques.

**Condition:** Maintenance issues reported

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P79. Garbage Bin Station, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

### E09 Garbage Bin Stations

**Description:** Garbage bin stations dating to 1990s are located throughout the park mounted on concrete slabs. They comprise five (5) PVC consul type 'wheelie' bins attached by a steel frame. Stations comprise three (3) recycling and two (2) garbage bins.

**Condition:** good

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P80. Picnic Platforms, 2006  
(source CM\*)

### E010 Picnic Platforms

**Description:** Dating to early 1980s. Located mainly at Gibberagong Park with one located in the northern section of Orchard Park. Low in height and mounted on timber posts and concrete upstands, the rectangular timber platforms (approximately 2000mm x 2000mm) are constructed in timber slats.

**Condition:** good, maintenance and cleaning issues reported.



P81. Birrawanna Track Entry, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

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#### E011 Birrawanna Track Entry

**Description:** Located north of the Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre is a sandstone edged wall with steps formed from concrete and timber. These steps form the entry to the Birrawanna Track Interpretation signage is located at the entry. Date unknown.

**Condition:** Good

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#### E012 Picnic Table and Seats (Steel & timber)

**Description:** Steel frame picnic table and benches finished with timber boards (200mm) – comprising three (3) timber boards for table and one (1) for bench.

**Condition:** poor, maintenance issues reported.

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P82. Picnic Table and Seat, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

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#### E013 Bollards

**Description:** Timber bollards are located throughout the park.

**Condition:** Good to Fair

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#### E014 Gibberagong Track Mangrove Boardwalk

**Description:** The Gibberagong Track Mangrove Boardwalk is located at the southern end of the Gibberagong South. The area incorporates directional signage, displays and interpretative signs. Date 1990s.

**Condition:** Good

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P83. Gibberagong Track Entry, 2006  
(source: CM\*)



P84. Crazy-paving Stone, 2006  
(source: CM\*)

### 3.9 Surfaces

Early photographs indicate that paving treatments have changed over time. Paving treatments have included gravel paths when Orchard Park was first laid out. They appear to have been later sealed with 'crazy paving'. Paving across the Orchard Park lawns were later removed. A variety of hard surface types are evident around Bobbin Head.

The following surfaces are currently used across the sites of Bobbin Head:

- S01 Bitumen Roads and Paths
- S02 Kerbs and Edgings – Concrete and Timber
- S03 Concrete paving
- S04 Brick Paving
- S05 Stone – Crazy Paving

#### Surfaces – Bobbin Head

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##### S01 Surfaces 1 – Asphalt Roads and Paths

Around 1937-38 the roads around Orchard Park were sealed using tarring and metalling. Roads to the Gibberagong Park were kerbed and guttered in 1955.

The affordable cost has promoted the use of bitumen across the site. In sections bitumen has been laid as pavement (as opposed to roadway) against the sandstone seawall as a paving material.

**Condition:** Good to Fair

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##### S02 Surfaces 2 - Kerbs and Edging

Around 1937-38 the roads around Orchard Park were sealed using tarring and metalling. Roads to the Gibberagong Park were kerbed and guttered in 1955.

The affordable cost of asphalt has promoted its use across the site. In sections, asphalt has been laid as pavement (as opposed to roadway) against the sandstone seawall as a paving material.

Photos dating to the 1930s show early road-park delineation contained no kerbing and was marked out using stone markers.

Concrete kerbs and edgings across the park are variable. Kerbs were adapted over decades to accommodate changes in levels of the roads over the decades undertaken to rectify inundation that has occurred.

In areas around Orchard Park timber edging was used to increase the height of the grassed area to cope with seawater inundation.

**Condition:** Good to Fair

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##### S03 Surfaces 3 - Concrete Paving

Concrete paving was used across much of the site.

Areas of textured concrete designed as crazy-paving has been used in certain sections of the site including around The Pavilion in Orchard Park. Cement mock crazy paving is located adjacent the seawall at Wharf Area and in Gibberagong South along the path leading to Gibberagong Track adjacent the mangrove area.

**Condition:** Good to Fair

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#### **S04 Surfaces 4 – Brick Paving**

Areas of brick paving are laid in various areas of Bobbin Head. This includes areas around the bridge, the Information Board in Orchard Park and the terraced area around Bobbin Inn.

**Condition:** Good to Fair

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#### **S05 Surfaces 5 – Stone - Crazy Paving**

Built 1950s the sand pit in Gibberagong Park is formed with sandstone crazy paving edging. Two paths lead from the sandpit edge to the roadway. The edging to the sandpit is damaged in small sections.

A contemporary crazy paving has been located immediately north of the former Kiosk at the Wharf Area (current use: Coast Alive Centre).

**Condition:** Fair to Poor (1950s) Good (1950s)

### **3.10 Recreational Usage**

Numerous active and passive recreational pursuits are undertaken at Bobbin Head. Bobbin Head contains a wide range of recreation facilities and opportunities including picnic areas, canoe launching ramps, boat moorings, marinas, restaurants, kiosks, children's playgrounds, fishing spots, scenic roads, visitor information centres, lookouts and walking tracks.

A Recreational Uses study was prepared for Bobbin Head by StratCORP Consulting in March 2006 (see Appendix 1.5). Visitor surveys have noted the following recreational uses of Bobbin Head:

- Rest and relaxation
- Spending time with family and friends
- Picnic and barbeques
- Short walks
- Fishing
- Boating
- Sightseeing
- Viewing plants and animals

It was also noted that many of the visitors were local residents. Various surveys indicated the following values and key attributes of the site which led to visits to the parklands:

- Scenery and views
- Outdoors and natural environment
- Quietness and tranquillity
- Cultural and educational value

People were asked if there were any improvements they would like to see at Bobbin Head. Respondents identified the following needs:

- Improve condition of Amenities Buildings.
- Install shade over the playground.
- Upgrade the condition of the surface of the picnic areas, and improve the picnic shelters and BBQs.
- Improve the safety of the access road, particularly the conflict between cars and cyclists.
- Improve directional signage on the walking trails.
- Provide a safe swimming area.

## **4.0 Significance Assessment**

### **4.1 Introduction**

An assessment of heritage significance endeavours to establish why a place is important. Significance is embodied in the fabric of the place (including its setting and relationship to other items), the records associated with the place, and the response the place evokes in the community or in individuals to whom it is important.

Sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 outline the criteria for the assessment of Aboriginal significance and historic cultural significance. Section 4.5 addresses the elements, history and characteristics of Bobbin Head in relation to the criteria of heritage significance. Section 4.6 briefly describes each sub-precinct of Bobbin Head and grades the level of significance for built structures. Archaeological potential is also dealt with in this section. Section 4.7 consolidates all of the above assessments to form the summary statement of significance for Bobbin Head.

### **4.2 Methodology for Assessing Significance**

Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999) has been used as a guideline in assessing heritage significance. Cultural significance includes values that are social, spiritual, aesthetic, historic and scientific for past, present or future generations. The cultural significance of a place is embodied in its physical form or fabric, its setting and contents; in associated documents, its uses, or in people's memory and associations with the place. Cultural significance can be complex, varied and at times conflicting; a result of diverse communities and cultures.

### 4.3 Application of Assessment Criteria - Aboriginal Significance

Aboriginal Significance assessment can generally be described under three broad headings (Pearson and Sullivan 1995:7):

- Value to groups such as Aboriginal communities.
- Value to scientists and other information gatherers.
- Value to the general public in the context of regional, state and national heritage.

Professional guidelines for the assessment of significance (National Parks and Wildlife Service Aboriginal Heritage Guidelines 1997) discuss two types of significance: social significance and scientific significance.

Significance Criteria	Guideline Definition
Social	<p>This area of assessment concerns the values) of a site or feature to a particular community group – in this case the local Aboriginal community. Aspects of social significance are relevant to sites, items and landscapes that are important or have become important to the local Aboriginal community. This importance involves both traditional links with specific areas as well as an overall concern by Aboriginal people for sites generally and their continued protection. Aboriginal cultural significance may include social, spiritual, historic and archaeological values.</p>
Scientific	<p>Scientific significance is assessed using criteria to evaluate the contents of a site, state of preservation, integrity of deposits, representativeness of the site type, rarity / uniqueness and potential to answer research questions on past human behaviour (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1997). National Parks and Wildlife Service guidelines recommended criteria for assessing archaeological significance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological Research Potential - significance may be based on the potential of a site or landscape to explain past human behaviour and can incorporate the intactness, stratigraphic integrity or state of preservation of a site, the association of the site to other sites in the region or a datable chronology;</li> <li>• Representativeness - all sites are representative of those in their class (site type / subtype), however, the issue here relates to whether particular sites should be conserved to ensure a representative sample of the archaeological record is retained. Representativeness is based on an understanding of the regional archaeological context in terms of site variability in and around the study area, the resources already conserved and the relationship of sites across the landscape; and</li> <li>• Rarity - defines how distinctive a site may be, based on an understanding of what is unique in the archaeological record and consideration of key archaeological research questions (i.e. some sites are considered more important due to their ability to provide certain information). It may be assessed at local, regional, state and national levels.</li> </ul>

Table 4.1.



#### 4.4 Application of Assessment Criteria – Cultural Significance

The following Gradings of Significance have been adopted from the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines, 2001, for Assessing Heritage Significance. An item will be considered to be of State (or local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the following criteria:

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Nature Of Significance</b>
Criterion (a)	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area); [i.e. historical].
Criterion (b)	An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSWs cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area); [i.e. historical].
Criterion (c)	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and / or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area); [i.e. aesthetic].
Criterion (d)	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons; [i.e. social].
Criterion (e)	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSWs cultural or natural history (or the natural or cultural history of the local area); [i.e. scientific].
Criterion (f)	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSWs cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area); [i.e. rare degree of significance].
Criterion (g)	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSWs Cultural or natural places; or Cultural or natural environments. (Or a class of the local area's Cultural or natural places; or Cultural or natural environments). [i.e. representative degree of significance].
<b>GROUP 2</b>	<b>COMPARATIVE DEGREES OF SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA</b>
State	Of significance to the State of New South Wales
Local	Of significance to the Local Government Area

Table 4.2.

## 4.5 Assessment of Heritage Significance - Cultural

The following assessment of heritage significance has been based on the history of the area and the physical inspection of the area, landscape and built structures.

### 4.5.1 Criterion (a) – Historical Significance

- Bobbin Head has high significance at local level as the primary recreational area within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, the second oldest national park in Australia (gazetted in 1894) and the first national park in NSW devoted to nature conservation. Bobbin Head was administered by the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust.
- Bobbin Head has exceptional significance at local level associated with its role as a popular recreational destination and pleasure ground used continuously since 1904. For more than one hundred years Bobbin Head has provided a wide range of informal recreational opportunities such as walking, bushwalking, family and community gatherings, picnicking and barbequing, boating, canoeing, scenic viewing, driving, fishing, bicycling and relaxing. The popularity of the park is attested by the fact that it currently receives more than one million visitors per year.
- Bobbin Head has high significance at local level associated with the development of the recreational park over one hundred years through numerous phases of land reclamation, development of infrastructure and services. Land reclamation created flat areas of land along the foreshore, critical to the creation of Bobbin Head as a primary recreation area. The first phase of reclamation development was between 1917 and 1930 and led to the creation of parkland that later became Orchard Park, Orchard Park South and Wharf Area. Land reclamation south of Orchard Park was completed by 1949 to create Gibberagong Park to provide additional car parking and playground facilities to cope with the popularity of the recreational area.
- Bobbin Head has high significance at local level associated with the provision of labour for the unemployed during the 1930s depression. The Unemployment Relief Council provided Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust with funds that financed the development of Orchard Park (Wharf Area, Orchard Park South and Orchard Park). Works included laying out formal parks, plantings, construction of Bobbin Inn, lavatories, picnic pavilion and picnic shelters, increasing the height of the seawalls, reconstructing seawalls and road works.
- Wharf Area at Bobbin Head has high significance at local level associated with the boat building, storage and rental company, Halversons. Halversons established their boat business in the area in the 1950s replacing boatsheds that previously existed in the area. Halversons Marina has a strong presence in the area having provided for all boating needs. Boats continue to be moored in areas of Cowan Creek.
- Bobbin Inn has high significance at the local level for being the main meeting / social hub for over seventy years and providing a venue for dances, cabarets, jazz performances, restaurants and café meals and refreshment.
- The seawalls at Bobbin Head have high significance at the local level for their associations with the alignment of the boundaries of reclaimed land of the parklands. The recreation areas of Bobbin Head were established following the construction of seawalls and revetments which served to contain the reclaimed land and allow for the construction of Bobbin Head. Repairs to the seawalls after floods has been an ongoing management issue with works occurring on an 'as needs' basis. The subsequent additions and repairs have resulted in a series of changes and improvements in construction techniques from revetment to solid sandstone gravity seawall.
- Bobbin Head has high significance at the local level associated with the development of access and transportation routes into and throughout the parklands. Later developments, including several realignments and widenings, have ensured the recreational parklands accommodates changes in the method of travel and keep pace with increased visitor traffic needs. Access to the Bobbin Head was initially by boat along Cowan Creek and later walking tracks. The first road into Bobbin Head, Bobbin Head Road, was completed in 1902 and provided access from Turramurra for horse and cart. The road from Mt Colah was completed in 1903. A causeway and bridge, constructed in 1903, provided the first crossing of Cockle Creek. Road realignments continued throughout the twentieth century to accommodate the requirements of motorised vehicles and led to the redesign of the recreation areas to accommodate increased usage. The road alignments within Bobbin Head include Bobbin Head Road (including the former causeway alignment), Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, Apple

Tree Bay, the internal road dividing Orchard Park South from Gibberagong Park; and the archaeological remains of the numerous bridges and their associated alignment alterations. Usage and visitors' fees introduced at Bobbin Head in the late 1920s have assisted in financing these works within the parkland.

#### **4.5.2 Criterion (b) – Historical Significance – Persons**

- Bobbin Head has high significance at local level for its associations with Eccleston Du Faur, an environmentalist who was instrumental in founding Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Du Faur was the first President of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust and responsible for the management of the National Park. Du Faur was instrumental in the early development of the Park and Bobbin Head, the first roads into the area, a causeway and bridge across and Cockle Creek and land reclamation for recreational purposes.
- Bobbin Head has high significance at local level for its associations with Richard Beaumont Orchard (1873-1939), Member of the House of Representatives for the Nepean electorate from May 1913-Nov 1917 (member of the Liberal Party, and after 1917, the National Party). Orchard was appointed Trustee of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust in 1928, served as President from 1927 to 1941 and Managing Trustee from 1932 to 1941. Orchard was the driving force behind the development of Bobbin Head as a pleasure ground and instrumental in guiding the design and planting of Orchard Park, which was subsequently named in his honour.
- Bobbin Head has high significance at local level for its associations with Howard Joseland (1860-1930) Honorary Architect for the Trust and probable designer of Bobbin Inn and Amenities Buildings at Bobbin Head. Joseland, of Joseland Gilling & Partners, was a well-respected architect who worked extensively on architectural commissions in upper North Shore. His early architectural designs were influenced by the Queen Anne style with his later work influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. His designs incorporated touches of Lutyens, Stanford White, Horbury Hunt and WL Vernon. Bobbin Inn, constructed after his death, is a fine architectural example of Joseland's work designed in the Art Deco style, while in the position of Honorary Architect for the Trust.

#### **4.5.3 Criterion (c) - Aesthetic Significance**

- A Trust committee led by President RB Orchard undertook the design of Orchard Park throughout the 1930s. The contrast of formalised layout with Bobbin Inn, The Pavilion, picnic shelters and cultural plantings and recreational landscape set against a backdrop of natural bush setting, reflected in the waters of Cowan Creek and associated waterways, has considerable aesthetic appeal. There are aesthetic qualities exhibited in the colours and textures of the cultural plantings and their foliage contrasting with the indigenous landscape.
- Bobbin Inn, probably designed by Howard Joseland, is a representative example of Art Deco style hotel. The Bobbin Inn has landmark qualities within the context of the parklands. Although the designer of the pair of Orchard Park Water Fountain markers is unknown they are complementary in style and materials to Bobbin Inn.
- Bobbin Head is set within the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, a place of natural heritage significance, and is a parkland with scenic qualities. These qualities are associated with the design of a pleasure ground within a serene backdrop of natural landforms and its location on the Cowan Creek waterway.
- The picturesque views through the trees of Bobbin Head and the pleasure grounds when travelling north along Bobbin Head Road have an aesthetic appeal and culminate as a sense of arrival entering the parklands south of the Wharf Area.
- Views east-northeast from Orchard Park and Orchard Park South across Cowan Creek to the shore opposite, taking in the moored boats, have aesthetic qualities and a picturesque appeal, as do views west-northwest from the Wharf Area looking across the creek to the pleasure grounds on the opposite shore.
- The seawalls of Orchard Park, Wharf Area and Gibberagong Parks constructed of sandstone blocks, are a prominent feature in the landscape and area clear marker of land tenure.
- The pair of Coast Redwoods in Orchard Park are a significant feature planting that dates from the 1930s phase of development. The individual specimen trees add character to the area.

- The *Araucaria* (Norfolk Island Pine) plantings located around the loop road in Gibberagong Park were planted in 1952. The *Araucarias* are intact as a group although the trees are in variable condition. The planting has been altered in the 1990s by the removal of Coral Trees which were once planted between each *Araucaria*. While not fashionable planting of the 1950s, the *Araucarias* have a landmark quality, especially when viewed from the eastern entry to Orchard Park (Wharf Area).

#### 4.5.4 Criterion (d) – Social Significance

Bobbin Head has exceptional significance at a local level as a recreation destination as evidenced by the following:

- In 2005 one million people visited Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Since the Park was opened in 1894 visitors have entered the park to walk, boat, swim and picnic at Bobbin Head. Local and regional communities have used Bobbin Head as a recreational destination for more than one hundred years. Constantly increasing visitations attest to its level of popularity as a meeting place for a wide variety of users.
- Members of the local communities use Bobbin Head for various forms of passive recreation such as picnics and bushwalks, while members of communities from further afield use the park on a regular basis. The Pavilion, barbeque and picnic facilities at Bobbin Head are heavily booked throughout the year and are used by large and small groups of people ranging from family groups to community, cultural and corporate groups. The various communities recognise the picturesque qualities of the area which was once described as one of Sydney's best-kept secrets as a picnic location.
- Large numbers of boat users use the Cowan Waters and moor at The Marina at Bobbin Head to admire the picturesque qualities of the parklands.
- Bobbin Head, located within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, has social significance at local level because it is held in high esteem by the Aboriginal people who take pride in the fact that the name of the Park is derived from the Aboriginal language group that occupied the area. As such the Park is a dedication to this local Aboriginal community.
- To date little research has been undertaken in relation to an assessment of Social Significance as held by current NP&WS staff. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many National Parks & Wildlife rangers and staff who have worked at Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park between 1967 and 2006 have a strong association with Bobbin Head. They have formed social connections while having worked there through their strong commitment to the natural conservation principles of the National Parks & Wildlife movement at Bobbin Head.
- For over 30 years the NP&WS (now known as Department of Environment and Conservation), together with the Department of Education, have established a field study centre to provide environmental fieldwork and training. NP&WS embrace education as part of its mission and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park has been used as an outside classroom with Bobbin Head as its meeting point. The Gibberagong Track over the mangrove and wetlands is an educational asset managed by NP&WS and has associated natural values.

#### 4.5.5 Criterion (e) – Scientific Significance

- The archival resource and movable heritage collection, held within the Northern Section Regional Office at Bobbin Head, has exceptional scientific / research significance associated with its ability to provide invaluable information about the history and administration of Bobbin Head. The archival collection includes journals, documents, annual reports, historic files, historic photographs, minutes of meetings and other papers associated with the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service phases of administration. Moveable heritage items of lesser significance include the miniature train (reportedly kept in storage on site).
- The seawalls of Orchard Park, Wharf Area and Gibberagong Park have high significance associated with their ability to provide research information about various sandstone seawall construction techniques and modifications used for the provision of land reclamation throughout the twentieth century. The sandstone seawalls at Bobbin Head have been constructed and reconstructed throughout several phases of development. Construction techniques and modifications to the wall have included original rubble-revetment walls, the addition of solid walls on top of existing revetment walls (late 1930s), and new solid gravity wall with infill behind (early 1950s). The alignments have been modified, the height of the walls increased and new seawalls added in front of earlier walls to cope with flooding and subsidence issues.

- Bobbin Head has some scientific / research potential associated with the archaeological resource of the buildings and structures that have been removed from the site. Buildings and structures include former stables and garages located on the eastern side of the creek, boatsheds, dressing sheds, children's playground facilities, kiosks, bathing enclosures and wading pools, seawalls and footings of former bridges. This archaeological resource can provide research information about building construction techniques and materials used in the early decades of the twentieth century.
- The recreational parklands of Bobbin Head are built on reclaimed land and the natural ecosystems of the place altered significantly. Therefore Bobbin Head has little scientific significance. The scientific / research significance of Bobbin Head lies in its association within the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, the first park in Australia set apart for a natural conservation precinct. Department of Environment and Conservation plays an important role in educating the communities about natural, scientific and ecological aspects of the surrounding National Park.

#### **4.5.6 Criterion (f) – Rarity**

- Bobbin Head is rare at the local level for being the only pleasure ground in the local area, located in a National Park and having facilities that allow a diverse mix of recreational and leisure activities including water use.

#### **4.5.7 Criterion (g) – Representative**

- Bobbin Head, comprising Orchard and Gibberagong Parks, is a representative example of a pleasure ground designed in the early twentieth century and set in a waterfront context. Orchard Park is representative of a 1930s semi-formal park with diverse plantings and elements designed, upgraded and constructed during the Depression, a period when many public gardens attained a high level of development and maintenance using unemployment funds and labour.
- Bobbin Head displays a typical range of recreation activities found in pleasure grounds and picnic grounds throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These activities include picnicking, camping, bushwalking, fishing, swimming, boating, educational field trips and children's playgrounds.

## 4.6 Significance Rating

Elements of Significance are set out in Table A below and are in accordance with the Heritage Office criteria:

<b>Grading</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Status</b>
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding elements directly contributing to an item's local or state significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Little	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.

*Table 4.3. Grading of Significance Criteria*

In the following tables identify Items / Element of Natural, Aboriginal and Cultural significance identified within Apple Tree Bay. Each Item / Element has been identified along with the level and applicable criteria of significance.

**Grading of Significant Elements - Bobbin Head – Natural Environment**

Refer to Appendix 1.1, Flora and Fauna Reports.

Item / Element	Level Of Significance	Criteria
<b>Plant Community:</b> The scientific significance of Bobbin Head is low because it is reclaimed and developed land. No plant community observed in the Bobbin Head study area is listed under the TSC Act or EPBC Act as being threatened and no recorded species was considered significant.	Little (Local)	Scientific
<b>Animal species:</b> It is unlikely that any threatened plant or animal species of state or national conservation significance listed under the TSC Act or EPBC Act would occur with any regularity in the reclaimed lands of the Bobbin Head area. It is more likely that these species previously recorded in the locality occur within naturally vegetated stands on the lower slopes and further into the National Park which also provide habitat for a wide range of fauna species, including those reliant on woodland / forest and riparian / wetland habitats.	Little (Local)	Scientific
<b>Marine species:</b> The bays and waterways of the Bobbin Head area would provide only transient habitat for any of the listed marine species and is unlikely to be utilised by most of the pelagic species recorded within ten kilometres.	Little (Local)	Scientific

Table 4.4. Grading Of Significant Elements

### Grading of Significant Elements - Bobbin Head – Aboriginal Heritage

Refer to Appendix 1.2, Aboriginal Research and Analysis Report.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is important archaeologically because it exhibits a large number and a diverse range of Aboriginal sites that represent a range of past activities. These activities include resource gathering and tool production, indicated by shell middens and grinding grooves, as well ceremonial processes demonstrated by rock art and engravings.

The marine resources provided by the creeks and tributaries located around Bobbin Head (Cockle Creek) would have attracted Aboriginal occupation of these areas. The mud flat and mangrove habitats that existed in these areas prior to European occupation and eventual reclamation for development would have also provided a plentiful resource zone. The prevalence of rock shelters in the area would have also offered suitable sites for regular visitation and use.

The Bobbin Head recreation parklands have a high level of cultural significance (regardless of the site-specific archaeology). The improvement of facilities in these parklands is likely to result in increased visitation to area, providing a good opportunity to educate / increase awareness of Aboriginal values and significance of the area among the public. In this context there is also concern that increased visitation may have implications for the conservation of Aboriginal archaeological sites in the area.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Orchard Park & Gibberagong Park The presence of two Aboriginal archaeological sites (BH1 and BH2) within the transition zone from grassed area to sandstone scarp at the back of the Bobbin Head precinct is interpreted as confirming the subsurface archaeological potential of this area. Although both sites show a high level of disturbance, the history of development at Bobbin Head demonstrates that this area is not reclaimed land. As the unreclaimed zone at the base of the sandstone scarp at Bobbin Head potentially represents the only natural landscape in this area, this zone is of high archaeological potential (this excludes the Orchard Park South sub-precinct where there has been a high level of past disturbance demonstrated by several buildings that currently stand on the site).	High	Social
Gibberagong Park BH3 – two hand stencils on adjacent rock faces. Possibly painted on rock face in past 20 years. Until the age of these hand stencils is confirmed by a rock art specialist, the archaeological and cultural significance of this site remains undetermined.	Assessment to be completed at a later stage of development	Assessment to be completed at a later stage of development

Table 4.5.



**Grading of Significant Elements - Bobbin Head – Cultural Landscape**

Bobbin Head is associated with Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, the second National Park to be proclaimed in NSW and the first devoted to nature conservation. Orchard Park was reclaimed in the first two decades of the twentieth century as an informal recreational area and served as the administrative centre for the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The area was established as a semi-formal park in the 1930s incorporating diverse planting elements including Bobbin Inn, The Pavilion and shelters and roads. The popularity of the park led to increased facilities and the development of additional recreational areas. The park continues to be the principal recreational focus of the parklands.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Bobbin Head Parklands incorporating Wharf Area, Orchard Park South, Orchard Park, Gibberagong Park, Gibberagong South, Cockle Creek and Cowan Creek.	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic

Table 4.6.

**Grading of Significant Elements - Wharf Area - Cultural Landscape**

This area was the first of the areas to be reclaimed at Bobbin Head.

The area has been primarily associated with boatsheds, boatbuilding and hiring for recreational use. Various wharves have been designed for this precinct. This area was the first in Orchard Park to be formalised with facilities for visitors including toilets, stables (later garages), bus waiting shed and ranger's office / residence and first aid room.

Originally designed with picnic shelter facilities these have been removed and now the ferry arrival area and car parking predominate. There is archaeological potential in areas where early boats sheds and stables were built.

Much of the character of the original 1930s semi-formal park layout and design has been modified. Picnic shelters have been removed and area has been converted from boating activity and picnicking to car parking.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Bobbin Head Road (Bobbin Head Track- 1901-1903)	High (Local)	Historic
Land reclamation (1922)	High (Local)	Historic / Social
Bobbin Head Road	High (Local)	Historic
Toilet block (1932)	High (Local)	Historic
Superintendents Residence (1932)	High (Local)	Historic
Bus Waiting Shelter (1939)	High (Local)	Historic
Wharf Area Kiosk (former rangers office, ambulance room and chief rangers office- 1941)	High (Local)	Historic
Vehicular Bridge connecting Wharf Area to Orchard Park (1956)	High (Local)	Historic / Social
Seawall / Revetment (1917-1918 with repair work)	High (Local)	Historic / Social
Seawall- solid (1952)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Social
Wharf (1987)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
Views and vistas to Cowan Creek, Orchard Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park	High (Local)	Aesthetic

Table 4.7.

**Grading of Significant Elements - Orchard Park South - Cultural Landscape**

The area was the second of the Orchard Park areas to be reclaimed, following the reclamation of the Wharf Area. In terms of use and design it is a secondary area to Orchard Park. The character of the original 1930s layout and design has been modified. In general, picnic shelters have been retained, although some have been relocated.

The area has been compromised by changes associated with road realignments occurring with the construction of the concrete bridge in 1956. The road alignment that borders the park to the south expresses the alignment of the early phase of land reclamation.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Ku-ring-gai Chase Road (1903)	High (Local)	Historic
Land Reclamation (1922)	High (Local)	Historic / Social / Aesthetic
1930s Picnic Shelters (1933)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Tree plantings (1930s)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Bobbin Inn (1936-1937)	High (Local)	Historic / Social / Aesthetic
Orchard Park Marker and Drinking Fountain (1937)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Internal road between Orchard Park South and Gibberagong Park (c. 1947)	High (Local)	Historic
Picnic table and seats (steel and timber), Picnic platforms, Barbeque Shelters	Little (Local)	Historic

Table 4.8

### Grading of Significant Elements - Orchard Park - Cultural Landscape

The original semi-formal layout of Orchard Park with diverse plantings and elements dating to the 1930s has been retained. Some original plantings are still evident. The layout and design of built features including Bobbin Inn, the pavilion and picnic shelters are intact with evidence of past minor modifications. While some elements have been modified over time and the park's level raised, the overall 1930s character of the park is maintained. Layout and design indicates this was the principal recreational parklands that made up Bobbin Head.

The park was designed by the Trust committee headed by the president, RB Orchard, and guided by garden and horticultural professionals from Royal Botanic Gardens and the Forestry Dept.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Land Reclamation (1929-1930)	High (Local)	Historic / Social / Aesthetic
Tree plantings (1934)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Pair of Cedar Redwoods (c. 1934)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
The Pavilion (1935-1936)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Seats, tables and barbeque within The Pavillion	Moderate / Little (Local)	Historic
12 Shelter Sheds (1935-1936)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Toilets (1936-1937)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Apple Tree Bay Road (1937)	High (Local)	Historic
Orchard Park Marker and Drinking Fountain (1937)	High (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Seawall / Revetment (1929)	High (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Seawall- solid with infill behind (1953 1954)	High (Local)	Historic
Information Directory (1970)	Little (Local)	Historic
Internal roads / parking	Moderate (Local)	Historic
Concrete picnic bench and tables, Barbeque Shelters and Picnic Platform	Little (Local)	Historic
Orchard Park Gateway	Intrusive (Local)	

Table 4.9.

### Grading of Significant Elements - Gibberagong Park - Cultural Landscape

Reclamation of the land in the Gibberagong Park precinct was completed in 1949. It was designed as an extension of Orchard Park South to provide increased parking and play areas.

The park was laid out and planted in the subsequent years with a loop of *Araucaria* (Norfolk Island Pine) alternated with coral trees following a loop road layout, surrounding a central open grassed area and sandpit. The coral trees were removed between 2003 and 2005. The layout of this section of the park copies the formalised layout of the earlier Orchard Park - central grassed area surrounded by roads.

Early playgrounds features included merry-go-rounds and miniature train. Much of the play related elements were removed after 1968 - only the sandpit survives with new playground equipment installed. The general layout and the circle of tree planting remains. The roads have been altered.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Seawall- Revetment (1936-1937)	High (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Land Reclamation (1947)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
The Station picnic Shelter (former Garage- 1951)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
Tree planting- Aracauria Loop (1952)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Aesthetic
Children's Playground (Established c. 1952)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
Stone Steps (1952)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
Canoe Ramp (1960s)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
3x 1950s Picnic Shelters with terracotta tile roof (1954)	Moderate (Local)	Historic
Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre (building)	Little (Local)	Historic
Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre (educational activities)	High (Local)	Scientific
Toilet Block (1954)	Little (Local)	Historic
Barbeque Shelter and Picnic Platforms	Little (Local)	Historic

Table 4.10.

### Grading of Significant Elements - Gibberagong South - Cultural Landscape

This area was the last of the areas at Bobbin Head to be reclaimed. The area has mostly indigenous tree plantings and mangrove vegetation predominates along the foreshore.

Aboriginal archaeological features are located in close proximity to this area.

The Gibberagong Track over the mangrove and wetlands is an educational asset managed by National Parks & Wildlife Service and would have associated natural values.

Item	Level Of Significance	Criteria
Land Reclamation (1958)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Cable Stay Bridge (2001)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Gibberagong Track	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific

Table 4.11.

**Grading of Significant Elements - Bobbin Head- Potential Archaeology**

The development of Bobbin Head began in the late 1890s with the construction of a boatshed at the Wharf Area (pre-reclamation). Over the years a series of structures have been built and removed to cater for the developing uses and needs of the community. Although the exact locations of all past structures have not been identified, their existence adds to the significance of the area.

**Wharf Area**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Level Of Significance</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Track to Bobbin Head (1891)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Boatshed (1898)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Causeway connecting east and west sides of Cockle Creek (1903)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Stables and WC (1905)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Horse Stalls and Stables (1908- removed c. 1925)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Jetty (1911- removed c. 1917)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
4 Motor Sheds (1912)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Dressing Sheds (1914)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Kiosk (1915)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Wharf (1923)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Garages (1925)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Boatshed (1928)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
3 Shelter Sheds (1934)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Wharf (1934)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Wharf (1935- 1936)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Wharf and Petrol Wharf (1936- 1937)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Boatshed and Dwelling 91936- 1937)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific

Table 4.12.

**Orchard Park South**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Level Of Significance</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Horse Stalls / Stables (1908- pre reclamation)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Power House and Lighting Plant (1936- 1937)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific

Table 4.13.

**Orchard Park**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Level Of Significance</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Children's Playground- Sunny Corner (Established 1933)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Bathing Sheds (1934)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Baths- northern end (1934)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Baths- southern end (1935- 1936)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Seawall- Revetment with upstand (1938)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Swimming Pool and Diving Platform- southern end (1953- 1954)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific

Table 4.14.

**Gibberagong Park**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Level Of Significance</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Shark Net (1941)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Kiosk (1949)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Miniature Train (1951- removed 1967)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Dressing Sheds (1952)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific
Wading Pool (1956)	Moderate (Local)	Historic / Scientific

Table 4.15.

## 4.7 Summary Statement of Significance

Bobbin Head, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is a place of cultural significance for historic, aesthetic, scientific / research and social values at local level. Bobbin Head is a 1930s pleasure ground located within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park an area of high natural significance at State level for its natural conservation values. The selection of the name, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, is a dedication to the local Aboriginal language groups that occupied the land.

Bobbin Head has exceptional social significance at the local level for its leisure and recreational heritage including water-based recreation activities. Bobbin Head attracted a million visitors in 2005 from surrounding residential areas and the wider Sydney region. Bobbin Head provides an open space pleasure ground that supports a wide variety of recreational activities. The place also has strong associations with nature conservation and a diversity of recreational activities and cultures. Bobbin Head was developed as the primary recreational area and pleasure ground within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The presence of Aboriginal archaeological relics and sites in close proximity to Bobbin Head has high social significance to the Aboriginal community and represent a range of past activities.

Bobbin Head has high historic significance at local level for its associations with Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, gazetted in 1894 as the second national park in NSW and the first national park devoted to nature conservation. Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust administered the conservation area from 1894 to 1967 and National Parks and Wildlife have administered the place from 1967 to the present (2006). Bobbin Head provides evidence of the evolving history of conservation management.

Bobbin Head has high historic significance at local level for its associations with prominent persons including the various Presidents of the Ku-ring-gai Park Trust and Trust members who managed Bobbin Head from 1894 until 1967. Prominent persons include Eccleston Du Faur, founder of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Richard Beaumont Orchard instigator of the 1930s development of Orchard Park as a pleasure ground and Howard Joseland (1860-1930) Honorary Architect for the Trust.

Bobbin Head has high aesthetic significance at a local level associated with its setting within the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, a place of natural heritage significance. Bobbin Head's scenic qualities are associated with the diverse cultural plantings and landscape elements of the semi formal park contrasting with the indigenous landscape and surrounding waterways.

Bobbin Head has high social significance at a local level for the use of the area for educational activities. Bobbin Head has moderate scientific / research significance for its archaeological potential associated with former buildings and structures.

Bobbin Head has high historic significance at a local level for its associations with the Unemployed Relief Funds and Labour utilised throughout the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s which contributed to the development of the park as a primary recreational parkland.



## 5.0 Opportunities and Constraints

### 5.1 Introduction

The conservation planning process established by the guidelines within the ICOMOS the *Burra Charter* of Australia (and set out in the NSW Heritage Manual) requires that relevant opportunities and constraints be identified as part of the process for developing conservation policies for places of significance. They are as contained in the following chapter and deal with the issues as listed below:

- Opportunities identified from the detailed analysis of the history and the fabric.
- Constraints arising from significance.
- Physical constraints of the landscape and buildings.
- External factors, including relevant council statutory and non-statutory controls.

The following chapters are not conclusions, or recommendations, but rather observations relevant to the circumstances of Bobbin Head and matters that require consideration and resolution. None of the stated opportunities and constraints in themselves form conservation policy. Appropriate conservation policy is a result of the careful comparative assessment of the various values and issues represented in the Statement of Significance and the opportunities and constraints.

### 5.2 Constraints Arising from the Statement of Cultural Significance

Constraints arising from significance establish a premise where the other issues such as physical condition and owner requirements can be considered. As discussed in Section 4.0 Significance Assessment, Bobbin Head has cultural heritage significance through its historical associations, aesthetic, technical / research and social values. Future management actions regarding Bobbin Head must have due regard to its unique heritage significance.

The following general heritage opportunities and constraints arise from the assessed significance of Bobbin Head as a whole:

- Bobbin Head contains places of cultural significance that should be conserved and managed in accordance with accepted conservation principles and practices.
- An opportunity exists for the removal or alteration to fabric and features having little significance so as to reveal the greater cultural significance of Bobbin Head.
- Decisions about works to the place, maintenance, repairs or more extensive adaptation works should always take into account the impact on the significance of the place, both as a whole and on individual components.
- The significance of the place and items within Bobbin Head should be interpreted for the public.

### 5.3 Opportunities, Constraints and Issues Arising from the Burra Charter

The *Burra Charter* (the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance) contains principles on conservation of significant places. The Charter provides nationally accepted principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance.

Opportunities and constraints that relate to the Burra Charter include:

- The aim of the conservation of the place should be to retain the cultural significance including provision for its security, its maintenance and its future (Article 2).
- Reconstruction work should further reveal the significance of the place. New work should be identifiable on close inspection (Article 19).
- The adaptation for a new use should not detract from the cultural significance of the place (Article 20).
- The adaptation should be limited to that which is essential to a new use (Article 21).
- Before any intervention of the area, records must be made of the existing fabric to add to the documentary evidence (Article 23).
- All stages of the work must be supervised by an appropriate professional and a log kept of new evidence and additional decisions recorded for future documentary evidence (Article 27).
- All plans and records of the conservations and works to Bobbin Head should be placed in a permanent archive as part of the history of the place.

#### 5.3.1 Archaeology

Interpretation should be considered for areas with archaeological potential, in particular, former stables, garages, seawalls and former bridges. Appropriate care should be taken during any excavation required for new works.

#### 5.3.2 Landscape Heritage

Refer to Volume 1, Part 3 LMP, Chapter 5.9.4.

There is a need to assess existing vegetation and retain significant landscape elements, while removing intrusive elements.

### 5.4 Opportunities, Constraints and Issues Arising from Statutory Requirements

There are a number of statutory controls which may affect future options for Bobbin Head. These include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984, National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and 2003, the NSW Heritage Act 1977, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and the Local Government Act.

#### 5.4.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 is the principal Commonwealth legislation protecting Aboriginal heritage. This Act complements State legislation and is intended to be used only as a 'last resort' where state laws and processes prove to be ineffective. Under this Act the responsible Minister can make temporary or long-term declarations to protect areas and objects of significance under threat of injury or desecration. The Act also encourages heritage protection through mediated negotiation and agreement between land users, developers and Aboriginal people. On 17 December 1998 responsibility for administration of the Heritage Protection Act was transferred by Administrative Arrangement Orders from ATSIC to the Environment and Heritage portfolio and the Act is now administered by the department of Environment and Heritage.

#### **5.4.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)**

Under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, all Aboriginal Objects are protected regardless of their significance or land tenure. Aboriginal Objects are defined as 'any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains'.

Aboriginal objects are therefore limited to physical evidence and may also be referred to as 'Aboriginal sites', 'relics' or 'cultural material'. Aboriginal objects can include pre-contact features such as scarred trees, middens and artefact scatters, as well as physical evidence of post-contact use of the area such as Aboriginal built fencing or stockyards, fringe camps.

The NPW Act also protects Aboriginal Places, which are defined as 'a place that is or was of special significance to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects'. Aboriginal Places can only be declared by the Minister administering the NPW Act.

Under Section 91 of the Act, the Department of Environment and Conservation must be informed upon the identification of all Aboriginal Objects. Failure to do this within reasonable time is an offence under the Act.

Under Section 90 of the Act, it is an offence for a person to destroy, deface, damage or desecrate an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place without the prior issue of a Section 90 consent (formerly referred to as a 'Consent to Destroy'). The Act requires a person to take reasonable precautions and due diligence to avoid impacts on Aboriginal Objects. Section 90 consents may only be obtained from the Environmental Protection and Regulation Division (EPRD) of Department of Environment and Conservation. In considering whether to issue Section 90 consents, Department of Environment and Conservation take into account the:

- Cultural and archaeological significance of the Aboriginal objects) or Aboriginal places) subject to the proposed impacts.
- Effect of the proposed impacts and the mitigation measures proposed;
- Alternatives to the proposed impacts.
- Conservation outcomes that will be achieved if impact is permitted.
- Outcomes of Aboriginal community consultation regarding the proposed impact and conservation outcomes.

The Act also provides for stop-work orders under Section 91AA if an action is likely to significantly affect an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place. The order may require that an action is to cease or that no action is carried out in the vicinity of the Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place for a period of up to 40 days.

It is also an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to disturb or excavate land for the purpose of discovering an Aboriginal object, or to disturb or move an Aboriginal object on any land, without first obtaining a permit under Section 87 of the NPW Act. In issuing a permit under Section 87, Department of Environment and Conservation will take into account the:

- Views of the Aboriginal community about the proposed activity.
- Objectives and justification for the proposed activity.
- Appropriateness of the methodology to achieve the objectives of the proposed activity.
- Knowledge, skills and experience of the nominated persons) to adequately undertake the proposed activity.

### **5.4.3 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and 2003**

In 1997 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed there was a need for the Australian Government to rationalise the protection of heritage in Australia. The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) came into force on 16 July 2000. The EPBC Act replaced five Commonwealth statutes: the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974; Endangered Species Protection Act 1992; National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975; World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983; and Whale Protection Act 1980. This led to the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, being repealed and replaced with an amended EPBC Act in 2003.

The amended act assigns responsibility for identifying, protecting and managing heritage places to the appropriate level of government. This will ensure:

- Heritage management systems are compatible, complementary and streamlined across all levels of government to minimise duplication and provide certainty to property owners, decision makers and the community.
- Nationally-significant heritage places are identified and protected.
- Facilitation of the protection of places of heritage significance owned or managed by the Commonwealth (other than sites of national significance).
- Greater legal protection to a nationally important heritage place.

The Register of the National Estate will be retained in a modified form as a valuable information resource that will provide guidance to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage when making decisions on the impact of an action on the environment under the EPBC Act. The amended EPBC Act came into effect on 1 January 2004. Listing on the Register of the National Estate imposes no legal restrictions, except on Federal authorities which must consult the Commission prior to carrying out any work which will impact on the heritage value of a place in the Register.

- Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Lion, Long and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves, Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, Bobbin Head, NSW is a Listed place on the Register of the National Estate (Place File No: 1/13/016/0003 dated 15/12/2006; Place Identification No: 105817). See Appendix 7.1 for Inventory Sheet.
- Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (1980 Boundary), Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, Bobbin Head, NSW is listed on the Register of the National Estate (1/13/016/0003; Place Identification No 2608). See Appendix 7.1 for Inventory Sheet.

### **5.4.4 NSW Heritage Act 1977**

The purpose of the Heritage Act is to ensure cultural heritage in NSW is adequately identified and conserved.

No item associated with Bobbin Head, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is listed on the register. Therefore the preparation of this Conservation Management Plan is not required by the NSW Heritage Office within the Department of Planning.

#### **Section 170 - NSW State Agency Heritage Register**

The Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) provides for heritage management by government agencies. Section 710 of the Heritage Act outlines the special obligations of government agencies are required to maintain their assets with due diligence in accordance with State-Owned Heritage Management Principles approved by the Minister on the advice of the Heritage Council and notified by the Minister to government instrumentalities from time to time.

The Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is listed on the Section 170 Register.

#### **5.4.5 Environmental Planning and Assessment (Amendment) Act 1979**

The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment (Amendment) Act (EP&A Act) became effective on and from 1 July 1998 and involves amendments of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The EP&A Act requires that consideration be given to environmental impacts as part of the land use planning process. In NSW, environmental impacts include cultural heritage impacts. Part 3 of the Act relates to planning instruments including those at local and regional levels, Part 4 of the Act controls development assessment processes and Part 5 of the Act refers to approvals by determining authorities.

Six categories of development are defined by the new legislation and include:

- Exempt Development
- Complying Development
- Local Development
- Integrated Development
- Designated Development, or
- State Significant Development

Under Part 4 of the Act, approvals by State government agencies can be linked to the development consent process. Development applications that require specified approvals from State agencies are referred to as Integrated Development Approvals (IDA). The Department of Environment and Conservation is an approval body in the IDA process when a development will impact on an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, thereby requiring a Heritage Impact Permit pursuant to Section 90 of the NPW Act. Under the IDA process, applicants are required to provide the Department of Environment and Conservation with sufficient information to allow them to provide general terms of approval, prior to the granting of any development consent.

Part 4 also requires that in reaching a decision to grant development consent, a consent authority is to take into consideration the likely impacts of that development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality. This requires the consent authority to consider the impact on all Aboriginal heritage values, including natural resource uses or landscape features of spiritual importance, as well as the impact on Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places.

#### **5.4.6 Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**

In NSW, threatened native plants and animals are protected by the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (with the exception of fish and marine plants).

#### **5.4.7 Fisheries Management Act 1994 No 38**

The objects of this Act are to conserve, develop and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations. In particular, the objects of this Act include:

- To conserve fish stocks and key fish habitats.
- To conserve threatened species, populations and ecological communities of fish and marine vegetation.
- To promote ecologically sustainable development, including the conservation of biological diversity.
- To promote viable commercial fishing and aquaculture industries.
- To promote quality recreational fishing opportunities.
- To appropriately share fisheries resources between the users and those resources.
- To provide social and economic benefits for the wider community of NSW.

The public has the right to fish in the sea, the arms of the sea and in the tidal reaches of all rivers and estuaries. The public has no common law right to fish in non-tidal waters – the right to fish in those waters belong to the owner of the soil under those waters. However, the public may fish in non-tidal waters if the soil under those waters is Crown land.

### **Environmental Management Plans (EMP)**

Environmental Management Plans relevant to the protection of the natural environment at Bobbin Head include:

- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans
- Wastewater Management Plan
- Solid Waste Management Plan
- Hydrological Management Plan

The EMPs will need to consider the following:

- NSW Fisheries (1999) Policy and Guidelines – Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation
- NSW Fisheries - Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (Fairfull & Witheridge, 2003)
- DIPNR guidelines regarding:
  - Watercourse and Riparian Area Planning, Assessment and Design (V4 Draft)
  - Watercourse & Riparian Zone Rehabilitation Requirements
  - How to prepare a Vegetation Management Plan
  - Design and Construction of Paths and Cycleways along Watercourses and Riparian Areas (V2)
  - How to Collect Native Plant Seed Responsibly (V1)
- Management actions contained in Final and Draft Recovery Plans for threatened fauna species prepared under the TSC Act (eg Yellow-bellied Glider; Large Forest Owls), and
- Any relevant management guidelines for native wildlife prepared by Department of Environment and Conservation.

Plans produced specifically for the management of native wildlife and their habitats should include:

- Management strategies for the creeklines and banks beyond the sea walled areas, vegetation and native fauna and their habitats, including specific fauna species.
- Feral fauna management.
- Weed management.
- Bushfire hazard / control management.

## **5.5 Opportunities, Constraints and Issues Statutory Controls, Local Councils**

### **5.5.1 Hornsby Shire LEP 1994**

The following item associated with the subject site is listed as a heritage Items on the LEP in Schedule D, Regional Reserves:

- Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park – Bushland including Railway, Dams, Brooklyn and Bobbin Inn.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is listed as having State heritage significance.

### **5.5.2 Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance, amended to 13 January 2003**

Heritage items associated with Ku-ring-gai Chase local government area are itemised in Volume 3, Appendix 7.1. Neither Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, nor any item associated with the place, is listed in this Ku-ring-gai Chase Council planning instrument.

### **5.5.3 Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2000 (as amended)**

Neither Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, nor any item associated with the place, is listed in the Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2000.

## **5.6 Opportunities, Constraints and Issues Arising from Non-Statutory Listings**

The following non-statutory listings address the subject site of Bobbin Head, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park:

### **5.6.1 The National Trust of Australia (NSW)**

The National Trust Register lists buildings and items of heritage significance in NSW. The organisation, whilst having no statutory power, is an influential force regarding environmental matters in the state. Inclusion on the National Trust Register generally indicates a high level of community support.

The National Trust has listed the Ku-ring-gai Chase National park as a whole rather than Bobbin Head as follows:

- Landscape Conservation Area – Ku-ring-gai (Classified 19/90/88)

On the listing sheet (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 7.1) mention is made to recreation areas within the Conservation Area which 'provide evidence of the early period of European Settlement of the area, and features which are demonstrative of changing modes of recreation during the Twentieth Century'. Mention is also made of Bobbin Head as the major evidence of visitation with Bobbin Inn, Orchard Park and its pavilions as the major feature.

### **5.6.2 Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)**

The RAIA acknowledges that their Register is not a complete record of significant buildings of the period and the NSW Chapter is continually revising and updating the Register and any further recommendations should be forwarded to them for consideration.

- No items on the subject site are listed on the RAIA Register of 20th Century Buildings of Significance.

## **5.7 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserve - Plan of Management (National Parks and Wildlife Service, May 2002)**

The Plan of Management for Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves POM was adopted by the NSW Minister for the Environment in May 2002. It sets out a strategic direction for the management and operation of the total area under the Plan, including Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Within the Plan of Management there are general objectives outlined for the management of national parks in NSW and specific objectives which apply to the management of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves. Further, the Plan of Management articulates the following overall strategy for the management of the parks:

1. Protect the national park and nature reserves from detrimental impacts of fire, weeds, feral animals, pollution, erosion and visitor use impacts through direct control and remediation works and through the education of park visitors, stakeholders and neighbours.
2. Protect the outstanding scenic values of the national park when viewed from both within and outside the park.
3. Maintain and promote selected sites and facilities within the national park which can cope with high levels of visitor use.
4. Limit facilities to existing developed areas of the national park or park boundaries where possible, rather than further dissecting the park with new developments.
5. Continue to limit access to the nature reserves to protect the nature conservation values for which they were dedicated.

## **5.8 Opportunities, Constraints and Issues Arising from Physical Condition**

- Sections of the seawall are in poor condition and require maintenance and rebuilding.
- The Wharf Area, Orchard Park, Orchard Park South, and Bobbin Head Road suffer from seawater inundation which has led to the deterioration of the condition of trees plantings, and to the landscape areas around buildings. There is an opportunity to conserve the park before the effects worsen. This raises the issue of whether it is best to deal with the problem by raising the relative level of the effected parkland.
- Occupational Health and Safety conditions indicate that some areas of seawall require immediate attention in the interest of visitors safety to the site.
- Equal access issues are associated with some of the public buildings, in particular the Amenities Buildings at Orchard Park, Orchard Park South, the Wharf Area and Gibberagong Park, Bobbin Inn, and the Gibberagong Amenities Building.

## **5.9 Opportunities, Constraints and Issues Arising from Current Owner Requirements**

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) are responsible for the Management of the parklands. They are concurrently preparing a Masterplan for the site with the aim to take the planning of Bobbin Head into the next thirty years. As part of the process community consultation and workshops have occurred, during which the needs of the users have been articulated. A summary of the expectations are as follows:

- To conserve and interpret the natural, Aboriginal and cultural significance of Bobbin Head including the heritage landscape character of Orchard Park, a pleasure ground designed in the 1930s.
- The protection and improvement of unique visual qualities along the creeklines and foreshores.
- To overcome the seawater inundation issues at Orchard Park which is degrading plantings and the overall condition and impairing the future use of the parklands.
- To reduce vehicular parking along the parkland's foreshore and provide access to visitors while retaining the same number of parking spaces.
- Provide visitors with access to well serviced tracks, trails and walks within the National Park;
- Upgrade facilities to ensure equal access where possible.
- To improve playground facilities in Gibberagong Park.
- Retain and maintain the seawalls.
- To provide a safe walking trail between Apple Tree Bay and Bobbin Head.
- Increase safety and security.



## 6.0 Conservation Management Policy

### Introduction

The purpose of conservation management policies set out in this section is to provide an in-principle guide to actions to be followed in the development, care, maintenance and long-term use of Bobbin Head so that its cultural significance is retained and enhanced.

The conservation policies have regard to the significance of Bobbin Head and the constraints arising from and associated with that significance. They provide the objectives for future planning and management.

### 6.1 General Conservation Policy

Bobbin Head is recognised as an item of cultural significance at Local level and should be managed and conserved in accordance with the provisions of the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS. The opportunities presented for Bobbin Head embrace the following principles:

#### *Policy 6.1.1*

Maximise retention of natural, Aboriginal and historic cultural significance, including functional relationships, spaces, vistas and fabric.

#### *Policy 6.1.2*

Enhance significance through conservation.

#### *Policy 6.1.3*

The conservation / use to have regard to and be consistent with the relative significance of the whole and individual elements.

#### *Policy 6.1.4*

Manage the parklands to minimise safety and security risks.

#### *Policy 6.1.5*

Enhance significance through interpretation.

#### *Policy 6.1.6*

Revitalise Bobbin Head to ensure its ongoing use and continuity of use. In order to achieve this some change may be necessary.

#### *Policy 6.1.7*

Allow ongoing change, development and repair, whilst retaining key elements of significance.

#### *Policy 6.1.8*

Record by archival recording all elements of significance which are affected by change.

#### *Policy 6.1.9*

Remove intrusive elements to reveal items of significance that will be affected by change.

#### *Policy 6.1.10*

Observe and comply with legislative requirements.

#### *Policy 6.1.11*

Maximise equal access.

### **Significance of Building and Landscape Fabric**

It is important to consider all the areas and components of the buildings and landscape and to recognise that evidence of the evolving history of the place and fabric contributes to their cultural significance. Significant fabric should be conserved using conservation processes appropriate to the assessed level of significance (Refer to Volume 1, Part 2 - CMP, Chapter 4.0). Restoration and reconstruction should aim to recover or reveal significance. New works should not detract from significance.

#### *Policy 6.1.12*

Bobbin Head and items and elements within the area are recognised as items of historic, aesthetic, scientific and social significance at state and local levels and should be managed and conserved on the basis of the definitions, principles, processes and practices contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) as well as the guideline documents supporting the Charter.

#### *Policy 6.1.13*

All significant fabric should be conserved and maintained.

### **Endorsement and Adoption of Conservation Policy**

#### *Policy 6.1.14*

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), as the managers of Bobbin Head, should endorse the Conservation Management Plan.

#### *Policy 6.1.15*

Copies of the endorsed Conservation Management Plan should be lodged with the Hornsby Council Library, Warringah Council Library, Ku-ring-gai Council Library, the State Library of New South Wales, National Parks and Wildlife Services Library, Hurstville, Bobbin Head Regional Office, Central Branch Library of PWD and Department of Environment and Conservation.

#### *Policy 6.1.16*

The policy outlined in the Conservation Management Plan should be adopted and implemented by the Department of Environment and Conservation as managers, and an audit should be undertaken on a 5-year basis or when new works are proposed.

#### *Policy 6.1.17*

The Conservation Management Plan should be referred to in all contracts and made available to all Department of Environment and Conservation personnel, property managers, trades people and sub-contractors prior to any major work being executed.

#### *Policy 6.1.18*

The Conservation Management Plan should be reviewed on a 5-yearly basis, and any changes to the place, or new information revealed during this period should be recorded and attached as an amendment to the document.

#### *Policy 6.1.19*

The Conservation Management Plan is to be reviewed prior to any proposed major works and is to be updated as required.

## 6.2 Management and Future Planning

The policies below establish that the heritage aspects of Bobbin Head must be considered as a primary concern over and above other aspects such as use, financial constraints or regulatory requirements in any future management or development. Compliance with legislation should take into account and seek to minimise heritage impacts.

### *Policy 6.2.1*

Bobbin Head is assessed as having local heritage significance. Work on any part of the site (including non-heritage) within this area needs careful consideration of the potential heritage and archaeological impacts.

### *Policy 6.2.2*

The cultural significance of Bobbin Head, assessed in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and summarised in the Statement of Cultural Significance, should be a major determinant in any future management and development of the place.

### *Policy 6.2.3*

Manage Bobbin Head with due regard to statutory requirements including the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (as amended).

### *Policy 6.2.4*

Future management of Bobbin Head should be aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Excellence in heritage management in accordance with recognised national and international best practice guidelines.
- To facilitate public access while ensuring the protection of significant fabric.
- To provide an integrated approach for the buildings and the parklands in which they belong that reflects the significance of all components and respects traditional techniques.
- To remove intrusive elements in order to restore an appropriate setting whenever the opportunity arises.
- To ensure new development within the visual catchment of Bobbin Head is sited so that an appropriate visual and historic curtilage is preserved for all items of cultural significance; and
- To provide for the ongoing safety and security of Bobbin Head.

### *Policy 6.2.5*

Major planning decisions regarding Bobbin Head is to involve a heritage specialist within the decision making process.

### *Policy 6.2.6*

No new major works should be considered within the Bobbin Head parklands without prior consideration of the CMP in consultation with a heritage professional.

### *Policy 6.2.7*

Technical and design advice and specialist contractual work should be limited to persons or firms with proven expertise in the heritage field and an understanding of the principles of heritage conservation. All such advice should be made with reference to this CMP.

## 6.3 Fabric and Setting

Conservation processes which are appropriate for individual elements (spaces, fabrics, fittings and finishes) should be managed in accordance with the guidelines in the ICOMOS Burra Charter. As a guiding principle, endeavour to maximise the retention of all significant fabric, spaces and elements in order to retain the authenticity and integrity of Bobbin Head by retaining and conserving the early planning, form, fabric and detailing. Significant subsequent modifications should also be conserved as well as the earliest work.

The Statements of Cultural Significance give overall direction regarding the cultural significance of the fabric and setting. The grading of significance for the existing fabric are addressed within Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4.0. Table 4.3: Elements of Significance provides an outline of significance of the various elements within Bobbin Head. Conservation processes appropriate for individual elements (spaces, fabrics, fittings and finishes) will be based upon the relative significance of the elements in accordance with the following policies.

### *Policy 6.3.1*

Items identified as being of Exceptional significance should be preserved, restored and maintained. Relevant processes should be recorded. If adaptation is necessary for the continued use of the place, minimize intervention, removal or obscuring of significant fabric. All intervention should be reversible and archivally recorded.

### *Policy 6.3.2*

Aim to preserve, restore and maintain all items of High significance and record relevant processes, unless explicitly exempted. There is an opportunity for adaptive reuse to preserve the ongoing viability of the place provided that significance is retained or revealed. All intervention should be archivally recorded.

### *Policy 6.3.3*

Aim to preserve, restore and maintain items of Moderate significance and record relevant processes. There is opportunity for adaptive reuse or partial removal may be permitted to preserve ongoing viability of the place, particularly if it reveals significance of a higher level.

### *Policy 6.3.4*

Where an item is assessed as having Little significance there is the opportunity to retain, adapt, and add compatible new elements and / or removal as necessary for adaptive reuse, ongoing viability or in order to reveal significance of a higher level.

### *Policy 6.3.5*

To reduce the adverse impact of any Intrusive items or elements, remove, adapt, or mitigate their impact as the opportunity arises.

## **Application of Conservation Management Plan**

### *Policy 6.3.6*

Any change, including intrusive maintenance procedures to any items of high or exceptional significance, should not proceed without prior reference to the Conservation Management Plan. If this Conservation Management Plan does not adequately address the item, Department of Environment and Conservation should commission clarification prior to work proceeding.

### *Policy 6.3.7*

Appropriately skilled heritage experts should be engaged to undertake documentation and planning of major conservation works.

### *Policy 6.3.8*

An archival photographic record should be made prior to, during and immediately after any future conservation works.

*Policy 6.3.9*

The Conservation Management Plan should be referred when any development is proposed under Part 5 of the EPA Act.

*Policy 6.3.10*

A Heritage Impact Statement should be prepared to accompany any Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and should assess the heritage impacts in relation to this Conservation Management Plan.

**New Building and Development Design**

*Policy 6.3.11*

New developments should aim to enhance the use of the place without obscuring or damaging the environment, items and fabric of heritage significance

*Policy 6.3.12*

All alterations and new work should respect the historic nature of Bobbin Head, should not visually dominate, compete with or be incompatible in character.

*Policy 6.3.13*

New work should complement rather than mimic significant heritage fabric unless reconstruction to known original details or reinstatement of original fabric is proposed.

*Policy 6.3.14*

New work should not impact on items from the 1930s which have high significance and 1950s cultural plantings and built elements.

*Policy 6.3.15*

Where new services are required, these should be introduced discreetly or be concealed to avoid damage to significant fabric and avoid visual impact on significant spaces.

*Policy 6.3.16*

No new work should adversely affect spaces of Exceptional or High significance.

*Policy 6.3.17*

New work should be identifiable as new work on close inspection.

**Setting and Curtilage**

*Policy 6.3.18*

Significant views and vistas throughout Bobbin Head are shown in Figure 5.10 of the Volume 1, Part 3, Landscape Management Plan for Bobbin Head, and include the following:

- Spectacular, expansive views of Foleys Bay from Orchard Park, Orchard Park South and the Wharf Area;
- Near view of Cackle Creek from within Gibberagong Park and Gibberagong South;
- Filtered views of the water throughout the parks and Bobbin Head Road;
- Filtered views across the length of the park between tree trunks and park infrastructure;
- A visual axis along Bobbin Head Road where it traverses the park; and
- Views from Bobbin Inn across the park and to the water

Conservation of identified significant views and vistas to and from Bobbin Head should be retained and enhanced. Vistas and views should be considered as part of any new development proposal within and immediately adjacent to Bobbin Head and within its visual curtilage.

## 6.4 Specific Policy Regarding Existing Fabric

Refer to Volume 1, Part 2 CMP, Chapter 4.0, Gradings of Significance.

The significance ratings and implications of the existing fabric provide a general guide for opportunities for future change within Bobbin Head (refer to Section 4.0 Gradings of Significance). All conservation and adaptive reuse work should be based on retention of a maximum of original fabric and should involve the least possible amount of physical intervention.

### Cultural Landscape Areas of Orchard Parks and Gibberagong Parks

#### *Policy 6.4.1*

The identified Cultural Landscape Areas at Bobbin Head are Orchard Parks (including Orchard Park South and Wharf Area) and Gibberagong Parks (including Gibberagong South). These two cultural landscape areas have distinct qualities, characteristics and levels of significance. These qualities should be recognised as two separate conservation precincts. The differences between the landscape features of the two phases of development of Orchard Parks and Gibberagong Parks should be enhanced and interpreted.

#### *Policy 6.4.2*

Future development of the identified cultural landscape of Orchard Parks (including Orchard Park South and Wharf Area) and Gibberagong Parks (including Gibberagong South), should be in accordance with their levels of heritage significance and limited to compatible uses, scale, and materials in order to conserve the landscape character of each area, while still retaining distinctive areas within the broader landscape of Bobbin Head.

### Orchard Park and the Wharf Area – Seawater Inundation

#### *Policy 6.4.3*

Seawater inundation is intrusive and has resulted in the erosion and degradation of the built and landscape elements of Orchard Park, Orchard Park South and the Wharf Area. In order to conserve the park as a whole, consideration should be given to raising the relative level (RL) of the park above the King Tide levels. Level raising works should be undertaken in a manner that retains, conserves and reinstates the following elements at the new RL:

- 1930s layout and planting character of the pleasure ground (including pathways).
- 1930s Picnic shelters.
- 1930s The Pavilion.
- Significant tree plantings.
- Separation between Orchard Park South and Gibberagong Park by way of a roadway.
- Bobbin Head and Ku-ring-gai Chase Roads (see Policy 6.4.16 for internal discussion on internal roads and carparking).

#### *Policy 6.4.4*

All elements should be recorded photographically prior to any works being undertaken.

### Orchard Park - Cultural Landscape (Individual Plantings)

#### *Policy 6.4.5*

Identified individual plantings of high significance should be conserved and where possible new plants of the same species planted in close proximity to ensure the 1930s landscape structure and character is maintained and preserved. Reference should be made to the Bobbin Head Landscape Management Plan (2006), Volume 1, Part 2 CMP.

#### *Policy 6.4.6*

Should the ground level be raised around existing significant trees, the trunk of the tree should be protected with a perimeter of gravel to ensure adequate drainage. A new tree of the same species should be planted in close proximity.

#### *Policy 6.4.7*

Facilitate a program of catch up maintenance for mature trees; consult an arborist to assess condition of trees.

### **Gibberagong Park - Cultural Landscape (Norfolk Island Pines)**

#### *Policy 6.4.8*

The loop planting of Norfolk Island Pines in Gibberagong Park has moderate significance. The shape and form of the loop planting should be retained where possible. New plantings of the same species could be planted in close proximity to ensure the character of the planting is maintained. Reference should be made to the Bobbin Head LMP (2006).

### **Seawalls**

#### *Policy 6.4.9*

The sandstone seawalls have high significance as boundaries and markers of the phases of development of land reclamation at Bobbin Head and as Depression period works in NSW. Throughout the first half of the twentieth century the seawalls have been built and rebuilt, using several seawall construction methods and the height of the walls has increased. Damaged or deteriorated fabric should be stabilised and conserved where technological means are available. The current practice of repair to deteriorated sandstone blocks contained within the seawalls should continue, where blocks are beyond repair, replacement with new sandstone block should be undertaken. Where structural issues require modifications to the wall this may be undertaken providing that a representative section of the wall is retained, the walls are archivally recorded before, during and after works, and existing stone is reused where possible.

#### *Policy 6.4.10*

Sandstone has been used consistently in construction throughout the various phases of development and provides a unifying element across the area. Sandstone should continue to be used as the main material in the construction, repair and maintenance of seawalls throughout Bobbin Head.

### **Orchard Park Entry Markers and Drinking Fountains**

#### *Policy 6.4.11*

Orchard Park Entry Marker and Drinking Fountain should be restored and maintained in accordance with its high heritage significance. The Entry Marker to the south of Bobbin Head Road should be made visible. Their role as entry markers to Orchard Park should be acknowledged and interpreted. The drinking fountains should be made operational.

### **Roads**

#### *Policy 6.4.12*

Bobbin Head should be conserved primarily as a place for the public to pursue leisure and recreational activities. To enable access to Bobbin Head, a remote recreational areas, roads and creek crossings were critical to the development. The significant roads and the bridge alignments within Bobbin Head include:

- Bobbin Head Road (including the former causeway alignment).
- Ku-ring-gai Chase Road
- Apple Tree Bay Road
- The road dividing Orchard Park South and Gibberagong Park (the alignment of the former causeway).
- Bridge with minor alignment alterations.

In any future development these road and bridge alignments should be retained and interpreted with consideration given to minor realignment to satisfy safety requirements and to reinstate former configurations.

#### *Policy 6.4.13*

Minor parkland roads within Bobbin Head other than those mentioned above form part of the circulation pattern and have been modified at various times. These roads have moderate / little significance and there is the potential to modify and reconfigure these roads.

### **Carparking**

#### *Policy 6.4.14*

Carparking should be managed to ensure access to all users of the parkland while minimising the physical and aesthetic impact of this use. Numbers of vehicles entering Bobbin Head should be monitored and managed to ensure protection of the heritage significance of the character of the parklands.

#### *Policy 6.4.15*

Any new parking areas should rationalise parking provisions, rather than adding to existing paved areas and be carefully designed so as not to impact on heritage items, disturb groundwater flows, or require the removal of significant landscape features.

#### *Policy 6.4.16*

There is an opportunity to remove car parking from adjacent to the foreshore and to revitalise the area for use as open space and promenade area. This has been perceived by Department of Environment and Conservation and the community as important. Should roads adjacent the water's edge at Orchard Park be removed there is the possibility for the former use to be interpreted.

### **Pathways**

#### *Policy 6.4.17*

Existing pathways adjacent to the seawalls at Bobbin Head allow visitors access to the cultural and natural significance of the area. These pathways should be retained and enhanced to ensure continued access is maintained.

#### *Policy 6.4.18*

In interpreting the 1930s Orchard Park design consideration should be given to reinstating the alignment of the former 1930s pathways through Orchard Park and around the Wharf Area.

### **Walking Tracks**

#### *Policy 6.4.19*

Existing walking tracks from Bobbin Head to the nature conservation areas of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park allow visitors access to the cultural and natural significance of the area. These walking tracks should be retained and enhanced to ensure continued access is maintained.

#### *Policy 6.4.20*

Any new walking tracks into the natural areas will require assessment under an REF to ensure they do not impact negatively on the Natural and Aboriginal significance of the areas.

### **Architectural Design and New Work**

#### *Policy 6.4.21*

Ensure any new work harmonises with the cultural landscape and architectural character of the existing buildings of heritage significance. New work should respect and complement the architectural style of the existing heritage significant buildings without imitation of heritage detailing. New work should be subservient to the landscape character of the place and should not seek to dominate it.

### **Architectural Design - Bobbin Inn**

#### *Policy 6.4.22*

Bobbin Inn has been assessed as having high aesthetic significance associated with the built form. In accordance with this significance the external elevations of Bobbin Inn together with the early sandstone garden walls and landscape elements should be conserved and retained. There is the possibility for some additions at the rear of the building on the northwest elevation towards the sandstone cliffs to reduce any visual impact. Minor modifications are permitted on the interior of the building in spaces of lesser significance.



*Policy 6.4.23*

Bobbin Inn has historic significance associated with its function as a refreshment provider. This function should continue to retain that significance. Bobbin Inn is currently underutilised and consideration should be given to better utilising the building and increasing visitations to the building. Possible future uses for the Inn which would be in keeping with its historic use could include restaurant, conference centre, entertainment and dance venue and function hiring.

*Policy 6.4.24*

To ensure equal access to the upper floor and toilets in the building consideration could be given to incorporating a lift into the design of the building. The location of a lift should be such that it does not detract from the principal elevation and the overall form of the building.

*Policy 6.4.25*

To provide a safe pedestrian access to the main entry to Bobbin Inn consideration should be given to realigning the road so there is a greater set back from the building.

*Policy 6.4.26*

There are significant sight lines and water views from Bobbin Inn. These should be maintained in keeping with their significance and location through limiting the height of any proposed structures and tree plantings.

### **Orchard Park Landscape Design**

*Policy 6.4.27*

The 1930s pleasure ground of Orchard Park, Orchard Park South and the Wharf Area, designed in the 1930s as a semi-formal park with diverse exotic trees and landscape elements including refreshment facilities, The Pavilion and picnic shelters, should be maintained. The character of the early plantings and landscape layout should be reinstated, should any new work be required. The character of the landscape should reference the historic photographs held in the National Parks and Wildlife Service archival collection.

### **The Pavilion, Orchard Park *Policy 6.4.28***

The Pavilion is the central focus within the landscaped area of Orchard Park and has high aesthetic significance. It should be retained in accordance with its significance. The Pavilion should be reinstated in its existing location when the level of Orchard Park is raised. In the 1930s design The Pavilion was raised on one step above the level of the surrounding lawn. Because of equal access issues it is undesirable that this original configuration be reinstated.

Paint scrapes and colour analysis of the 1930s paint scheme should be undertaken to establish the original colours. This original colour scheme may assist in interpreting any future colour scheme.

*Policy 6.4.29*

The picnic seating, table and barbeque facilities within The Pavilion have moderate / little significance. These facilities are well-utilised and in high demand year round. Changes and upgrade to these facilities are possible, however, it is desirable that any new layout cater for the same numbers as currently exist.

*Policy 6.4.30*

Provision of lighting should be considered for night time use of The Pavilion.

### **1930s Picnic Shelters, Orchard Park and Orchard Park South**

*Policy 6.4.31*

The 1930s Picnic Shelters at Orchard Park and Orchard Park South have high historic significance as elements within the 1930s pleasure ground. In any future development of the pleasure ground the 1930s park layout, including the 1930s Picnic Shelters, should be retained.

It has been reported that the 1930s Picnic Shelters are underutilised as their compartmentalised design does not accommodate larger groups and their internal layout does not comply with disabled codes. To promote their use, consideration could be given to modifying the internal

configuration of some of the 1930s Picnic Shelters. They may be modified by removing, or partially removing, internal partitions and furniture, replacing existing tables and seating and providing lighting.

To retain the character and integrity of the 1930s pleasure ground more than half of the 1930s Picnic Shelters should be conserved in their original configuration. To ensure retention of the visual integrity and significant vistas and views of the pleasure ground, most of the conserved 1930s Picnic Shelters should be located along the foreshore.

Paint scrapes and colour analysis of the 1930s Picnic Shelters should be undertaken to establish the original colour scheme. This original colour scheme may assist in interpreting any proposed colour scheme.

### **Picnic Shelters, Wharf Area**

#### *Policy 6.4.32*

Photographic records indicate 1930s Picnic Shelters, similar to those in Orchard Park and Orchard Park South, were located in the Wharf Area. These picnic shelters have been removed. There is an opportunity to relocate 1930s picnic shelters to this area or to add new picnic shelters. New picnic shelters should respect and complement the existing heritage significant landscape and buildings, including the 1930s Picnic Shelters. New picnic shelters should not mimic the details of the existing 1930s Picnic Shelters and should be subservient to the landscape character of the place.

### **1950s Picnic Shelters with Tiled Roof, Gibberagong Park**

#### *Policy 6.4.33*

The three (3) 1950s Picnic Shelters at Gibberagong Park have moderate historic significance associated with the 1950s development of the park. These picnic shelters are underutilised because of their compartmentalised design. There is an opportunity to retain, adapt or remove these shelters. Ensure any new picnic shelters in Gibberagong Park harmonise with the cultural landscape and architectural character of Gibberagong Park. New work should respect and complement the existing heritage significant buildings and structures, without mimicking and should be subservient to the landscape character of the place.

### **Facilities and Amenities**

#### *Policy 6.4.34*

It is desirable to improve and provide new seating, shelters and playgrounds that support the needs of users of Bobbin Head. However, ensure that new facilities do not impact on the values relating to the open spaces, natural areas and heritage items. Consideration can be given to the removal of the concrete picnic benches and tables located in Orchard Park (elements of little heritage significance).

#### *Policy 6.4.35*

The Orchard Park Amenities Building and the Wharf Area Amenities Building are assessed as having high heritage significance and should be retained. Works however should be undertaken to conserve these buildings and adapt them to Disability Discrimination Act. The Gibberagong Park Amenities Building has little heritage significance and can be adapted or removed as necessary.

#### *Policy 6.4.36*

Encourage the sharing of built facilities to minimise the number of buildings required within Bobbin Head. However, in so doing, ensure buildings do not dominate the surrounding environment.

### **Boating**

#### *Policy 6.4.37*

The water-based recreational activity of boating forms part of the historic significance of Bobbin Head. In keeping with this heritage significance boating should continue and facilities such as ramps, wharves and moorings be retained to ensure this use is continued.

## 6.5 Maintenance

Maintenance is the most cost-effective way to maintain the value of an asset. Regular expenditure of small amounts of annual funds is more cost effective and beneficial than a program of intermittent backlog maintenance. Adequate ongoing funding should be allocated to ensure preventative maintenance and so avoid ongoing deterioration requiring major repair works and higher repair costs. For guidelines regarding the programming of regular inspections and detailed recording, refer to the publications *Maintenance Series 1.1: Preparing a Maintenance Plan* (1998) and *Maintenance Series 1.2: Documenting Maintenance and Repair* (1998) as prepared by the NSW Heritage Office.

### *Policy 6.5.1*

A detailed Maintenance Plan for items at Bobbin Head should be drawn up to ensure the ongoing integrity as a matter of high priority.

### *Policy 6.5.2*

The maintenance Plan is to incorporate regular monitoring of cracking in the sandstone walls of the Orchard Park Amenities Building and the sandstone in general of the Amenities Building , Kiosk, and Bus Stop located in the Wharf Area.

### *Policy 6.5.3*

Establish an adequate maintenance allowance in annual budgets to ensure preventive maintenance is achieved.

### *Policy 6.5.4*

Implement regular cyclic inspection schedules, taking into account the significant fabric of Bobbin Head and prioritising actions in accordance with need. Ensure cyclic maintenance is scheduled following the NSW Total Assets Management Strategy (TAMS) principles.

### *Policy 6.5.5*

Review the Maintenance Plan on a regular, annual basis. Update current maintenance methods and review the strategy every five years.

### *Policy 6.5.6*

Department of Environment and Conservation should actively educate staff involved in maintenance in conservation methods in accordance with the Maintenance Strategy and Plans.

### *Policy 6.5.7*

A review of this Conservation Management policy and archaeological potential of an area should be made prior to any excavation proceeding. Ensure works are based on an understanding of the heritage significance of the place, the fabric and current conservation principles and practice. Any surface activity may impact on the archaeological resource.

### *Policy 6.5.8*

Consultants, trades-people and supervisory staff should have knowledge and experience of sound conservation practices and of the heritage significance of these properties. The level of knowledge should be relevant to the significance and scale of the works for each item.

### *Policy 6.5.9*

Trades people should take care not to damage significant fabric in maintenance, installation and repair activities. Services should not penetrate fabric assessed as having high / or moderate significance except in accordance with an approved Heritage Impact Statement.

### *Policy 6.5.10*

The maximum amount of original fabric should be retained during any maintenance work which is required to be carried out. Fabric assessed as having high or moderate significance should not be replaced nor removed from the parklands without prior approval and preparation of a Heritage Impact Statement.

*Policy 6.5.11*

Damaged or deteriorated fabric of exceptional, high or moderate significance should be stabilised and conserved as far as possible.

*Policy 6.5.12*

Elements or items of significance, where no longer functional due to deterioration or damage and which are incapable of being stabilised are to be archivally recorded and assessed for suitability to be replaced with matching details in the same material and date-stamped.

## **6.6 Natural Heritage**

### **Fauna and Flora**

*Policy 6.6.1*

Fauna in the Bobbin Head area should be managed in accordance with Department of Environment and Conservation policies including the Plan of Management, Threatened Species Recovery Plans, Threat Abatement Plans and Priority Action Statements.

*Policy 6.6.2*

Interpretation should be provided to inform the public about the fauna, their habitats within Bobbin Head, and their relationship with Indigenous cultural heritage.

*Policy 6.6.3*

Intrusive flora, other than flora associated with landscape design of the 1930s and 1950s, should be managed in accordance with the Sydney North Region Pest Management Plan. No invasive species should be planted as part of the 1930s or 1950s landscape design.

*Policy 6.6.4*

A Fauna Management Plan based on the legislative requirements should be developed and implemented.

### **Access to the Natural Environment**

*Policy 6.6.5*

Bobbin Head provides direct access to the natural conservation areas of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park through walking tracks. This access should be maintained to continue this unique opportunity to promote access to the nature reserves. Existing walking tracks should be maintained and new walking tracks considered and should be undertaken giving due consideration to any potential impact on the natural, Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage of the area.

## **6.7 Aboriginal Heritage**

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act protect and assist the Aboriginal heritage management process in NSW: In accordance with this legislation all Aboriginal heritage identified at Bobbin Head is protected. Department of Environment and Conservation, as managers of the parklands should be aware of their responsibilities in identifying and protecting the Aboriginal heritage of Bobbin Head.

*Policy 6.7.1*

Aboriginal Site BH3 should be inspected by a qualified rock art specialist so that if required, appropriate management of the site can be implemented in any future works.

*Policy 6.7.2*

It is recommended that any development as part of the improvement to recreation facilities avoid impact to sites BH1, BH2 (and BH3), and that appropriate impact mitigation measures are put in place to avoid indirect impact to these sites.

*Policy 6.7.3*

With any improvement / expansion to recreation facilities at Bobbin Head, there is concern that increased visitation to the parklands may have implications for the conservation and management of Aboriginal archaeological sites. This should be considered as part of any future works.

*Policy 6.7.4*

Due to the ambiguity and inaccuracies in the information recorded for known archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity of the recreation parklands, there is concern that any future works may inadvertently have direct / indirect impact on archaeological sites. This directly relates to the proposal for the construction of several new walking tracks throughout the area, including the looping track between Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay. Shell middens and rockshelters with art have previously been recorded along several of the walking tracks in the area, including the Berowra Track leading north from Apple Tree Bay. It is therefore recommended that a more comprehensive archaeological survey assessment of all areas to be affected by the construction of tracks be undertaken before works commence.

*Policy 6.7.5*

Interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage: The interpretation of Aboriginal heritage should be incorporated into any future design and facility upgrades. The production of interpretive signage, cultural displays and pamphlet distribution are among the numerous possible formats for increasing and enhancing visitor education and awareness of the archaeological and cultural significance of Aboriginal heritage at Bobbin Head.

## **6.8 Archaeological Potential**

Aboriginal and European cultural archaeological sites are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Heritage Act respectively. Excavation permits may be required under s140 of the Heritage Act and s86 of the NPW Act.

*Policy 6.8.1*

Prior to works involving excavation, the CMP should be consulted to determine whether archaeological features are likely to be impacted (see Figures 2.2 to 2.6 and Section 2 Grading of Significant Elements - Bobbin Head, Potential Archaeology). Should there be the possibility of an impact an archaeologist should be employed to monitor and record.

*Policy 6.8.2*

Care should be taken in undertaking any future excavation works. Sub-surface activity may impact on the archaeological resource. Should any archaeological remnants be encountered, such as footings from previous structures, work should stop and an archaeologist be engaged to assess the remains and advise on progress. This may require archival recording and getting appropriate approvals under the Heritage Act and / or NPW Act. All archaeological evidence should be identified and its location listed as an addendum to this Conservation Management Plan. This information may include the original layout of Orchard Park including path locations.

## 6.9 Moveable Heritage

### *Policy 6.9.1*

NSW Heritage Office Movable Heritage Principles should be adopted and implemented by Department of Environment and Conservation. In particular:

- Retain movable heritage within its relationship to places and people.
- Provide community access to movable heritage and encourage interpretation.
- Ensure a detailed inventory and photographic record is prepared / preserved and continued.
- Ensure safe storage to prevent theft and deterioration of fabric.
- A register should be kept of all items loaned to organisations for promotional or interpretation purposes.
- A signed contract stipulating the terms and conditions of any loan, appropriate storage and handling requirements, and insurances required, should be lodged with Department of Environment and Conservation prior to any items being removed from the collection.

Movable heritage should be managed in accordance with the Department of Environment and Conservation Movable Heritage Policy.

### *Policy 6.9.2*

Any artwork and movable heritage items of exceptional or high significance, held by Department of Environment and Conservation, should be housed in conditions that ensure their physical condition is not compromised. A register of all items should be established.

### *Policy 6.9.3*

Movable heritage should be integral to the interpretation of the parklands and be assessed for suitability for interpretation.

### *Policy 6.9.4*

Consideration should be given to displaying the miniature train, currently in storage on site, as part of the interpretation of the history of the parklands. A movable heritage consultant should be employed to advise on the condition of the train, conservation requirements and its potential for possible display.

## 6.10 Feasible Uses

### *Policy 6.10.1*

To allow the ongoing use of Bobbin Head some change may be required. Department of Environment and Conservation should accommodate changing uses consistent with protecting the heritage significance of natural, Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage spaces, areas and elements. Design Guidelines have been provided in Policy 6.16 Adaptive Re-Use.

Suggested future compatible uses for Bobbin Inn include restaurant, conference centre, entertainment and dance venue, and function hiring.

### *Policy 6.10.2*

The consideration of feasible uses for Bobbin Head, or portions of it, has to take into account a number of factors that will allow each proposed use to be assessed. These include:

- Statements of Significance.
- Conservation Policy.
- Potential impact upon significant fabric.
- Consideration of historic use patterns of Bobbin Head.
- Interpretation of the place and its history.
- The retention and enhancement of significant fabric and of significant elements designated as important to the community.
- Holistic treatment of the place and the context to which they belong and the recognition of the significance of their character, spaces, fabric and layout.
- Community access and consultation.
- Statutory requirements.
- Economic viability.

## 6.11 Equal Accessibility

### *Policy 6.11.1*

Public use of the parklands will recognise its high social significance and in accordance with the Plan of Management for the park and the NPW Act.

### *Policy 6.11.2*

Where practical ensure recreational areas and facilities are accessible to people with a disability, including people with mobility, hearing and sight impairments. This includes providing specific facilities that can be used by children or adults with a disability such as a playground, shelter or barbeques.

### *Policy 6.11.3*

Various buildings within Bobbin Head are not Equal Access compliant, these include:

- Bobbin Inn (high significance).
- Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre (little significance).
- Wharf Area Amenities Building (high significance).
- Orchard Park Amenities Building (high significance).
- Gibberagong Park Amenities Building (little significance).

A review of 'the Station' disabled persons facilities is required to assertion of current BCA requirements being achieved.

### *Policy 6.11.4*

Changes to buildings with high significance should be undertaken in a manner that does not detract from the stated significance and values of the buildings or the principal elevation. Consideration could be given to the use of a ramping system to the toilets, while, the installation of a lift could be considered at the rear of Bobbin Inn to allow access to the upper level.

### *Policy 6.11.5*

Support participation in a range of activities by a diversity of people. This includes catering for all age groups, abilities and cultural backgrounds, and both the local communities and the wider community, including tourists.

## 6.12 Interpretation

### *Policy 6.12.1*

Interpretation should be in accordance with an Interpretation Plan prepared by an appropriately experienced consultant, and should incorporate the following:

- Inform and capture the essence of the place, its history, previous uses, cultural significance and context in an easily accessible manner.
- Utilise alternative, innovative means to interpret the place.
- Designs to minimise visual intrusion, to be sympathetic with the heritage item and based on an integrated system for all signage.
- Be Manufactured in high quality, durable and appropriate materials.

### *Policy 6.12.2*

An Interpretation Strategy should be developed to ensure that visitors to Bobbin Head have an understanding of the historic phases of development of this significant recreational area. The Interpretation Strategy should incorporate the Natural, Aboriginal and Cultural significance of the site. Historic Themes in the Interpretation Strategy should include, but not be limited to, Aboriginal occupation, indigenous flora and fauna, establishment of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, role of the Trust, and reclamation, development of pleasure grounds, history of recreational activities and unemployment relief.

*Policy 6.12.3*

Appropriate interpretation should be co-ordinated so that the historic essence of the place is captured. Interpretive devices may include revealed fabric of the item, activity programs, archaeological remnants, signage, photographs, artwork, illustrations or other media as appropriate. Panels could be located in areas sympathetic to the architectural character and spatial layout of the place so that visitors can understand the significance of the place and its layering of history.

*Policy 6.12.4*

Historic significance is associated with welfare work within Bobbin Head for unemployed labourers during the economic depression of the 1930s. Opportunities exist for the interpretation of these works programmes.

*Policy 6.12.5*

Swimming baths were located at several locations at Bobbin Head and was a popular recreational facility. Steps, located in the seawalls, are a reminder of this historic association. Consideration should be given to the interpretation of this popular activity.

## **6.13 Signage**

*Policy 6.13.1*

Ensure that:

- the installation of a sign does not result in damage to significant fabric of a heritage item.
- existing signs, when significant (such as Orchard Park Marker), are to be retained and not impacted upon by the provision of any new sign.
- there is a consistency of approach to the retention of existing signs and provision of all new signs on a heritage item.

*Policy 6.13.2*

Directional Signage should be in accordance with a prepared Interpretation Plan (Refer to Policy 6.13)

## **6.14 Archival Recording**

*Policy 6.14.1*

Ensure archival recording is undertaken in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office publication How to Prepare Archival Records in Heritage Items (1998) and Guidelines for Photographic Recording of Heritage Items (1994) and is conducted prior to, during and after adaptation of significant fabric and is to be lodged in a publicly accessible place.

*Policy 6.14.2*

Department of Environment and Conservation should ensure all historic research, copies of drawings, documents (including plans, methodology, scope of works and progress of all works associated with heritage fabric) and archaeological reports are lodged in a publicly accessible place to assist with future research of the buildings. A central catalogue of such documents should be maintained by Department of Environment and Conservation.

*Policy 6.14.3*

Site fabric investigations should be carefully carried out to expose earlier fabric layers that are at present covered or inaccessible. Such investigation would include paint scrapes to enable the preparation of paint schemes.

*Policy 6.14.4*

A record must be kept of maintenance procedures, new evidence and future decisions for the place.

*Policy 6.14.5*

Samples of fabric of cultural significance unavoidably removed in the process of adaptation should be kept. Such items should be professionally catalogued and protected.



## 6.15 Adaptive Re-Use

Any future adaptive re-use of Bobbin Head, and elements within the area, needs to be in accordance with its cultural significance. Bobbin Inn is the principal building within Bobbin Head and possible adaptive re-uses of Bobbin Inn include café, restaurant, conference centre, entertainment / dance venue, function hiring, museum and interpretation centre or other uses which will not require major services or intervention to original fabric.

### *Policy 6.15.1*

The following design guidelines should be incorporated in briefs for any new built elements within Bobbin Head:

- **Character:** new work should respect and complement the architectural style of the existing heritage fabric which should not mimic heritage detailing. New work should be subservient to the character of the buildings and should not seek to dominate it.
- **Scale and massing:** new works should be compatible in scale, form and massing to the significant fabric. New work should not overwhelm or take precedence over the existing character.
- **Materials, detail and colours:** Generally materials selected should be high quality products, well detailed and complementary to those already in the parklands. Colour for new work should be recessive so that the heritage fabric is given prominence.

### *Policy 6.15.2*

Care should be taken to ensure all new elements enhance the significance of the place. This applies equally to small elements such as signage and lighting. The architectural expression, materials, scale and proportion of the existing buildings should inform adaptive reuse designs or placement of any work.

***End of Volume 1, Part 2 CMP.***

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