

# TOMAREE LODGE

## *Heritage Report to Council*

*Prepared for Port Stephens Council*

**5 February 2021**



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Report Number: PSC01  
Version / Date: Draft | 5/02/2021

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## Document Status

Version	Purpose of Document	Orig	Review	Review Date
Draft	For Client Review	Darrell Rigby		
Final	For PSC Use	Darrell Rigby		



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## Summary

Given the imminent change of management and responsibility at Tomaree Lodge, Port Stephens Council (PSC) has recognised the importance of understanding the heritage significance of the site and the ramifications related to future operations.

This report has been prepared for Tomaree Lodge, situated at the end of Shoalhaven Road, Shoal Bay, Port Stephens, NSW. It sits between Tomaree Head and Shoal Bay, at the southern entrance to Port Stephens.

Opened in 1942 during WW2 as an Infantry Camp, Tomaree Lodge was designed to look like a fishing village. In 1947 it was sold to the NSW Department of Health who adapted it for use as a psychiatric hospital. During the 1960's the site was used as a holiday retreat for psychiatric patients from across NSW. Since 1985 it has been used for patients with developmental difficulties.

Tomaree Lodge was gazetted for inclusion on the NSW State Heritage Register in 1999, heritage ID#0835.

The following recommendations are made to assist Port Stephens Council understand future potential heritage works necessary and ultimately responsibilities associated with Tomaree Lodge management;

### Recommendation 1

Implement the full Burra Charter process as shown in Table 2 to assess and develop a CMP specific to Tomaree Lodge and surrounds.

### Recommendation 2

As a minimum, if the Burra Charter Process is not able to be implemented in the short term, an archaeological zoning plan must be developed for the site.

### Recommendation 3

In addition to Recommendation 2 and if the Burra Charter Process is not able to be implemented in the short term a comprehensive study is needed to differentiate between WW2 and later items present at the site and the evolution of uses pertaining to these. The study should include physical site access to all buildings, sites and landscape elements.



## 1.0 Introduction

Tomaree Lodge is expected to cease operations in 2021 as a supported accommodation facility for people with an intellectual and physical disability. The Tomaree Lodge site is under management by the Department of Family and Community Services. Key stakeholders affected by the decision to cease these operations may include the Environment, Energy and Science division which is part of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), Port Stephens Council (PSC), the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council (WLALC) and various community groups. The adjoining Mount Tomaree site is managed by National Parks and Wildlife Services. Port Stephens Council manages a number of reserves and also holds responsibility as the roads authority on the approach to the headland.

Opened in 1942 during WW2 as a military camp, Tomaree Lodge was designed to look like a fishing village. After the war in 1947, it was sold to the NSW Department of Health and by 1949 it was adapted to use as a psychiatric hospital. During the 1960's the site was used as a holiday retreat for psychiatric patients from across NSW. Since 1985 it has been used for patients with developmental difficulties.

Given the potential for a change of management and responsibility for the site, Port Stephens Council (PSC) has engaged the services of Heritage Archaeology + Planning (HA+P) to attempt to identify what elements of the site might relate to the NSW State Heritage register (SHR) and to assess the heritage listing in terms of management responsibilities and likely obligations.

### 1.1 The Project Area

This report has been prepared for Tomaree Lodge, situated at the end of Shoalhaven Road, Shoal Bay, Port Stephens, NSW. It sits between Tomaree Head and Shoal Bay, at the southern entrance to Port Stephens. The Project Area encompasses the whole of the built area facing west onto Shoal Bay (**Figure 1**).

### 1.2 Limitations

This report is not presented as a history of Tomaree Lodge. The history of the site is well documented elsewhere. Nor is this report designed to assess heritage significance as this aspect has also been addressed and completed previously. The item was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in April 1999 (#0835). The ability to physically inspect and assess the buildings and grounds was not permitted by NSW Government, limiting the assessment to primarily desktop and a pedestrian visit along the public perimeter pathway.

### 1.3 Author

This report has been prepared by HA+P Principal Heritage Consultant, Darrell Rigby. All mapping has been prepared by Emma King, Director, Pixel Drafting. It should also be noted Darrell Rigby is the Heritage Advisor for Port Stephens Council providing advice to Council on a range of heritage related subjects and sites across the LGA.

Legend

 Project Area



Disclaimer: While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the information shown on this map is up to date and accurate, no guarantee is given that the information portrayed is free from error or omission. Please verify the accuracy of all information prior to use.

Google Earth  
2020 TerraMetrics



## 2.0 Historic Heritage Legislative Context

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 is relevant to this report.

### 2.1 NSW Heritage Act 1977

Historical archaeological relics, buildings, structures, archaeological deposits and features are protected under the *Heritage Act 1977* (and subsequent amendments) and may be identified on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or by an active Interim Heritage Order.

The Heritage Council of NSW, constituted under the *Heritage Act 1977*, is appointed by the Minister and is responsible for heritage in NSW. The Council reflects a cross-section of community, government and conservation expertise — with NSW Heritage being the operational arm of the Council. The work of NSW Heritage includes:

- Working with communities to help them identify their important places and objects;
- Providing guidance on how to look after heritage items;
- Supporting community heritage projects through funding and advice; and
- Maintaining the NSW Heritage Database, an online list of all statutory heritage items in NSW.

The 1996 NSW Heritage Manual, published by the then NSW Heritage Branch and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, provides guidelines for conducting reporting, maintenance and management of heritage items.

### 2.2 Heritage Registers

Acknowledged heritage items and places are recorded in statutory and non-statutory registers held at the Federal, State and local level depending on their level of significance. Internationally significant sites of 'outstanding universal value' are inscribed in the World Heritage List (WHL) and in turn, such sites are usually recognised through their inclusion on Federal and state-level registers.

Federal designations include the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) created by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Both registers are maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and are available to view on an online database, the [Australian Heritage Database](#). The NHL includes natural, historic and Indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation. The CHL protects natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places on land owned or leased by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Authority.

**Table 1 Australian Heritage database search results**

Item Name	Status and Listing ID	Location
Fort Tomaree	(Registered) Register of the National Estate (Non-statutory archive) Place ID: 100138	Adjacent to the project area
Tomaree Headland (west section)	(Registered) Register of the National Estate (Non-statutory archive) Place ID: 18134	Contains the project area
Tomaree National Park	(Registered) Register of the National Estate (Non-statutory archive) Place ID: 16582	Adjacent to the project area



## 2.3 State Agency Heritage Registers

Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, State agencies and authorities in NSW are required to keep a register of heritage places for which they are responsible. The s.170 registers are also held in the State Heritage Inventory. There are four listings relevant to the project area on the s.170 register. It identifies the NSW Department of Health as the organisation currently responsible for Tomaree Lodge.

**Table 2 S.170 State Agency listings**

Item Name	Address	Suburb	LGA	Government body responsible for the heritage site
Archaeological site	Shoal Bay Road, Tomaree Head, Shoal Bay, NSW 2315	Shoal Bay	Port Stephens	Dept. of Health
Landscape	Shoal Bay Road, Tomaree Head, Shoal Bay, NSW 2315	Shoal Bay	Port Stephens	Dept. of Health
Military Installations	Shoal Bay Road, Tomaree Head, Shoal Bay, NSW 2315	Shoal Bay	Port Stephens	Dept. of Health
Tomaree Holiday Lodge Precinct	4 Shoal Bay Road, Tomaree Head, Shoal Bay, NSW 2315	Shoal Bay	Port Stephens	Dept. of Health

### 2.3.1 Tomaree Holiday Lodge SHR Listing 0853

Heritage places of State significance are included on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) maintained by Heritage NSW and available on the NSW Heritage Inventory database. The Inventory includes items of state and Local significance in NSW, it may not necessarily be comprehensive and inclusion on the inventory does not carry statutory weight in its own right. To reach the threshold for inclusion in the SHR, a place needs to meet one of more of the heritage criteria identified by the Heritage Council of NSW. The ultimate decision on whether a place is included on the SHR is made by the Minister for Heritage.

Places of local significance are included in heritage schedules in Local Environmental Plans (LEPs).

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for a full reproduction of this listing

**Table 3 Items on State Heritage Register**

Item Name	Location	SHR I.D.#
Tomaree Holiday Lodge	Project area	00835
Tomaree Head Fortifications	Adjacent to the project area	01821

### 2.3.2 NSW State Heritage Listing and Tomaree Lodge

Heritage listing provides formal recognition by NSW local councils or the State Government that an item or place is historically significant and that the public wants to preserve it for the benefit of future generations.

Owners and managers of heritage-listed properties have a responsibility to manage and maintain the property, item, or place for future generations. Far from being a restriction on future development, improvements or adaptive reuse, heritage listing can benefit the private owners and managers through permits, grants and publications provided and assisted by the NSW Heritage Council and Heritage NSW.



Tomaree Lodge was gazetted for inclusion on the NSW SHR in 1999 and as such is eligible for assistance.

## 2.4 Recent changes to the NSW Heritage Act, 1977

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 changes were approved by the Minister relating to the [Schedule of Standard Exemptions](#) to Subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977 made under Subsection 57(2). These standard exemptions are available to the owner of a listed item or item subject to an Interim Heritage Order, or any person with the consent in writing of that owner, or if the item is situated on Crown Land, as defined in the Crown Land Management Act 2016, the lawful occupier.

From 1 December 2020 new standard exemptions apply so that some works will be exempt from approval without notification to Heritage NSW. Under these modifications certain activities and works are exempt from approval under the Heritage Act 1977 for heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register or subject to an Interim Heritage Order. The activities and works must have little to no impact on the item's heritage significance and support its management.

**The types of work that may be subject to an exemption are as follows.**

1. Maintenance and cleaning
2. Repairs to non-significant fabric
3. Alteration to non-significant fabric
4. Alteration to interiors of non-significant buildings
5. Repair or replacement of non-significant services (mechanical, electrical and plumbing)
6. Non-significant telecommunications infrastructure
7. Fire safety detection and alarm systems
8. Excavation
9. Painting
10. Restoration of fabric that forms part of the significance of the item (significant fabric)
11. Subdivision of non-significant buildings
12. Temporary Structures
13. Vegetation
14. Burial sites and cemeteries
15. Signs
16. Filming
17. Temporary relocation of moveable heritage items
18. Compliance with minimum standards and orders
19. Safety and security

Before any work begins you must decide if your activity or work can be done under Standard Exemptions and comply with the standard exemption requirements. To assist with this there are several steps provided by Heritage NSW for using the Standard Exemptions successfully.

### Step I: Check the listing

Search the online heritage database to confirm the item is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or subject to an Interim Heritage Order (IHO). The online database entry can also contain important information about your heritage item.



## Step 2: Check if exemptions apply

Before commencement you must self-assess whether your project can be done under an exemption. Proposed activities may be exempt from approval if they fit the description of:

- one or more of the Standard Exemptions.
- any applicable site-specific exemptions for the item - you can find these on the online heritage database entry for your item.

*If the proposed activity does not comply with the Standard Exemptions or site-specific exemptions, approval under the Heritage Act 1977 is required.*

## Step 3: Engage suitably qualified and experienced professionals

Anything done under exemptions must be carried out by people with suitable knowledge, skills and experience. Some exemptions require suitably qualified and experienced heritage professional advice/work.

## Step 4: Record Keeping

It is essential that a person working under Standard Exemptions keeps a record of the decisions they made in their self-assessment and the activities/works undertaken. When using an item's site-specific exemptions, you should comply with documentation requirements listed in the schedule of site-specific exemptions. A record of the use of exemptions should include (at a minimum):

- a reference to the item's statement of heritage significance
- a detailed description of the proposed activity and how this changes the existing fabric/item
- an assessment of whether the activity will impact the item's heritage significance (following the Statements of Heritage Impact guidelines)
- details of any advice received from a suitably qualified and experienced professionals
- other relevant records e.g. plans, copies of heritage advice received and before and after photos as attachments.

## Unexpected issues and finds

If during your project under an exemption, you discover an issue or find significant fabric such as relics, you should stop and evaluate whether you can address the issue within the defined activity, relevant standards and conditions of the exemption. If you are not able to, you will need to seek approval, and whether you need new/additional professional advice or expertise. You should document all issues and unexpected finds, your decisions and any advice which informed those decisions with this information kept in your Standard Exemption Record of Use.

## 2.5 Management obligations for a SHR item

As Tomaree Lodge is listed on the SHR it is necessary to maintain it in accordance with the Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Repair under Section 118 of the Heritage Act 1977 and the Heritage Regulation 2012.

When new works are proposed, compliance with the Building Code of Australia / National Construction Code and Australian Standard AS1428 (Universal Access) may also be required. Any strategies or solutions to ensure that components of the Tomaree Lodge comply with the various standards should be driven by the heritage significance of the place. Where necessary, alternative solutions and performance-based outcomes should drive development to ensure the intent of the code is met without negatively impacting upon significant fabric. Professional advice should always be obtained by a suitably qualified heritage practitioner



and BCA consultant. Due to the complex nature of heritage sites, 'deemed to comply' design solution approved by BCA or access consultants may be used to satisfy the intent of the Standard.

## 2.6 The Burra Charter

The Burra Charter (the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Place of Cultural Significance) contains principles on conservation of significant places. The Burra Charter provides nationally accepted principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance and is a starting point for sites such as Tomaree Lodge where little to no recent heritage work has been done.

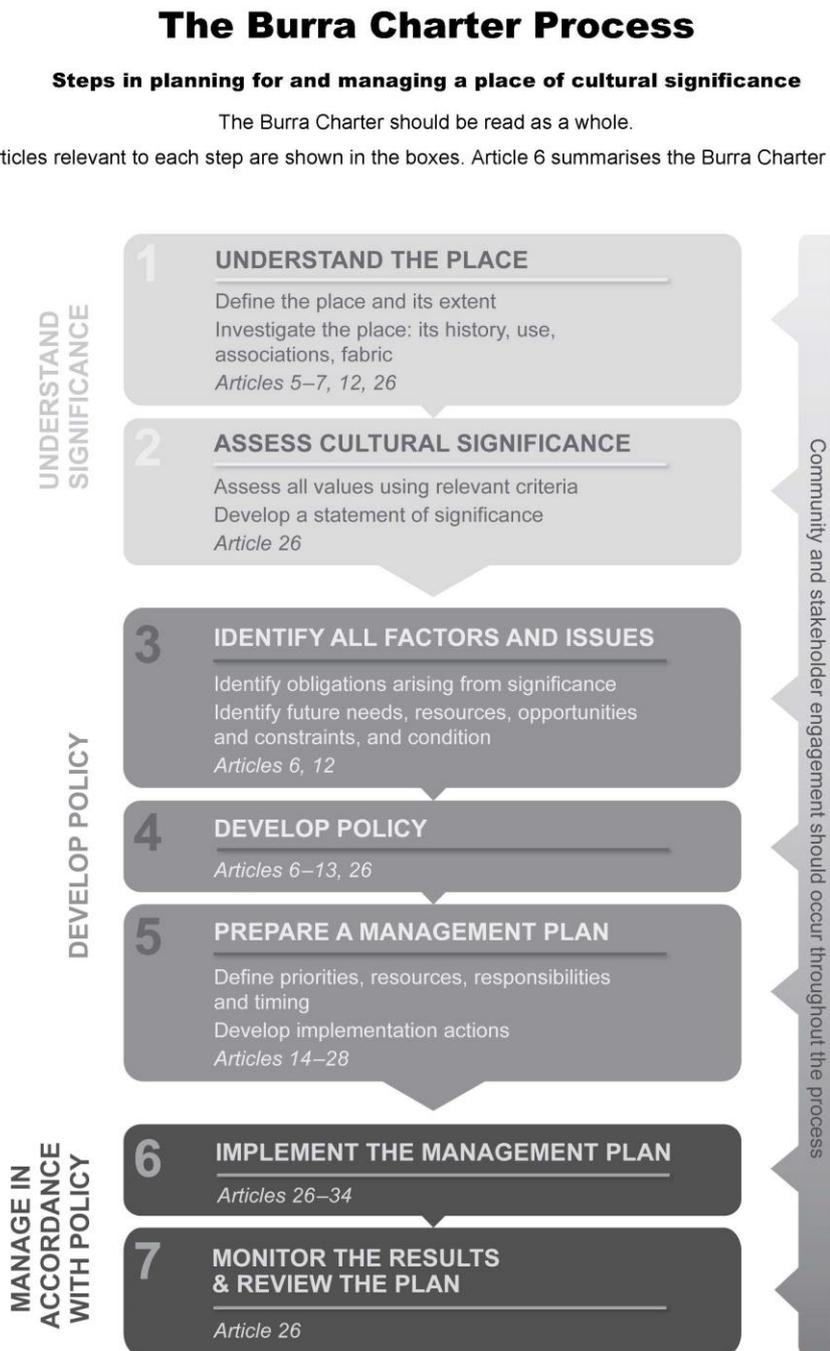
The ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013 adopted by Australia ICOMOS establishes the nationally accepted principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance. Although the Burra Charter is not cited formally in an Act, it is nationally recognised as a document that shapes the policies of the Heritage Council of NSW.

The document provides the underlying methodology for works to heritage items of all levels of significance and provides the guidelines for the management of heritage items. Tomaree Lodge is on the SHR and therefore procedures for managing changes and activities at the site should be in accordance with the recognised conservation methodology of The Burra Charter.

The Burra Charter flow chart (below) is a graphical representation of The Burra Charter Process, which outlines the steps in planning for and managing a place of cultural significance.



Table 4 Burra Charter Flowchart for management of heritage items



The Burra Charter Process: flow chart from the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013, p10*.  
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## 3.0 Tomaree Lodge physical elements

The SHR provides limited information regarding physical and landscape heritage elements. Through interpretation of this listing it has been possible to draw out individual items and elements that are protected on the SHR.

### 3.1 WW2 Built elements

1. There are ten predominantly single-storey weatherboard ex-World War Two Australian Army garrison camp accommodation buildings.
  - These buildings are timber framed.
  - They tend to have corrugated metal gable roofs.
  - Those built on the embankment have un-rendered or painted brick bases or engaged brick piers.
  - A number of the cottages have fixed awnings.
  - Some retain timber framed double-hung sash windows.
  - “Building 8” has caneite ceilings, wood grained panelling and exposed trusses.
2. Two relics are associated with Fort Tomaree; the surf battery and the footings for a torpedo tube.
3. Random rubble retaining walls provide level terraced space on the otherwise natural ground slope.
4. The site contains a range of distinctive features relating to its earlier uses including fortifications and installations, roads, gun placements, and a random rubble walled battery.

**Plate 1 Example of cottage remaining on site with later additions (awning and handrails)**





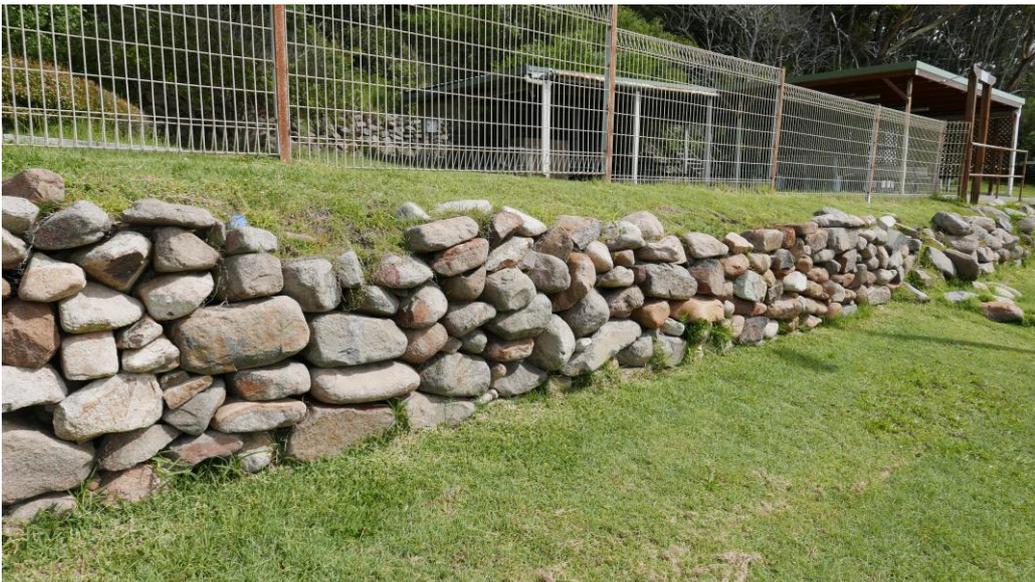
**Plate 2 Example of pier construction and weatherboards**



### 3.2 WW2 Landscape elements

1. The landscape of the site is terraced.
2. Random rubble retaining walls and stone features are common.
3. There are mature Norfolk Island pines.
4. On the headland's rock platform are random rubble terracing, drains, a roadway and sea walls.
5. The slope behind Tomaree Lodge is likely to contain archaeological evidence associated with camp operations and Tomaree Battery.

**Plate 3 Example of random rubble retaining walls**





### 3.3 Later use elements

The following items are those of lesser heritage value or perhaps those items that would not be covered by the SHR. It would be necessary to complete a full inspection of the site to identify if this were the case.

- Recreation Hall,
- the Administration Block (c1980s) and staff cottages,
- terraced and landscaped land not attributed to WW2 defences,
- a range of structures including a swimming pool, work sheds, a fisheries laboratory, stone walls constructed by former residents along the foreshore of Shoal Bay



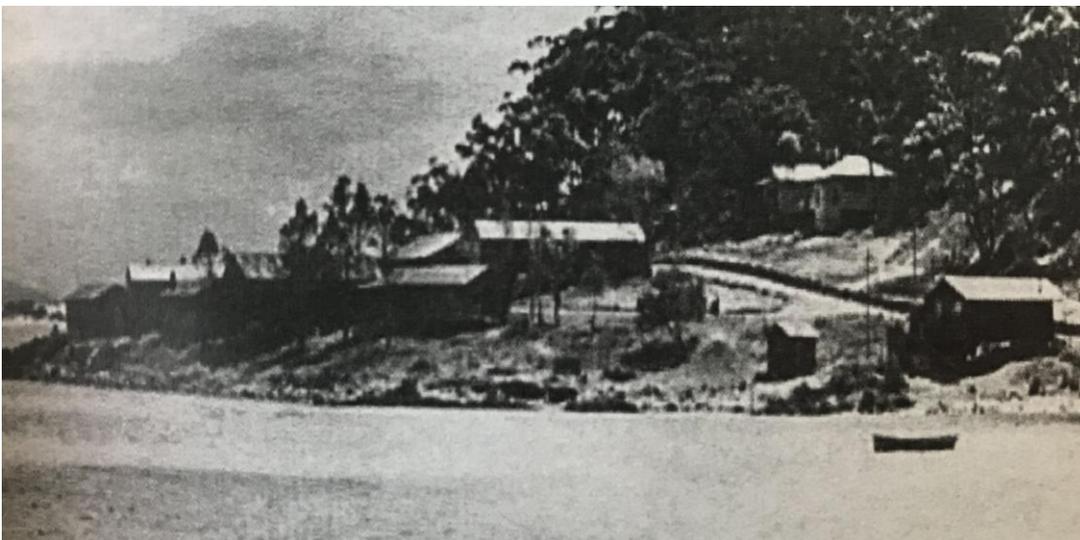
## 4.0 Historic sources analysis

It is important to gather primary and secondary historic sources to verify details written in the SHR for Tomaree Lodge. Sources include, the National Library of Australia, the local history sections at the Port Stephens and Newcastle Libraries plus other online and community resources.

Visual assessment is also useful such as by comparing the modern photograph in Plate 4 against that of the historic photo in Plate 5 below. By doing so it is possible to detail items that may belong to the original Infantry Camp at Tomaree protected by the SHR.



**Plate 4** 2021 View of Tomaree Lodge (Infantry Camp)



**Plate 5** Circa 1942 image of Infantry Camp, Tomaree (source: Russell, 2016)

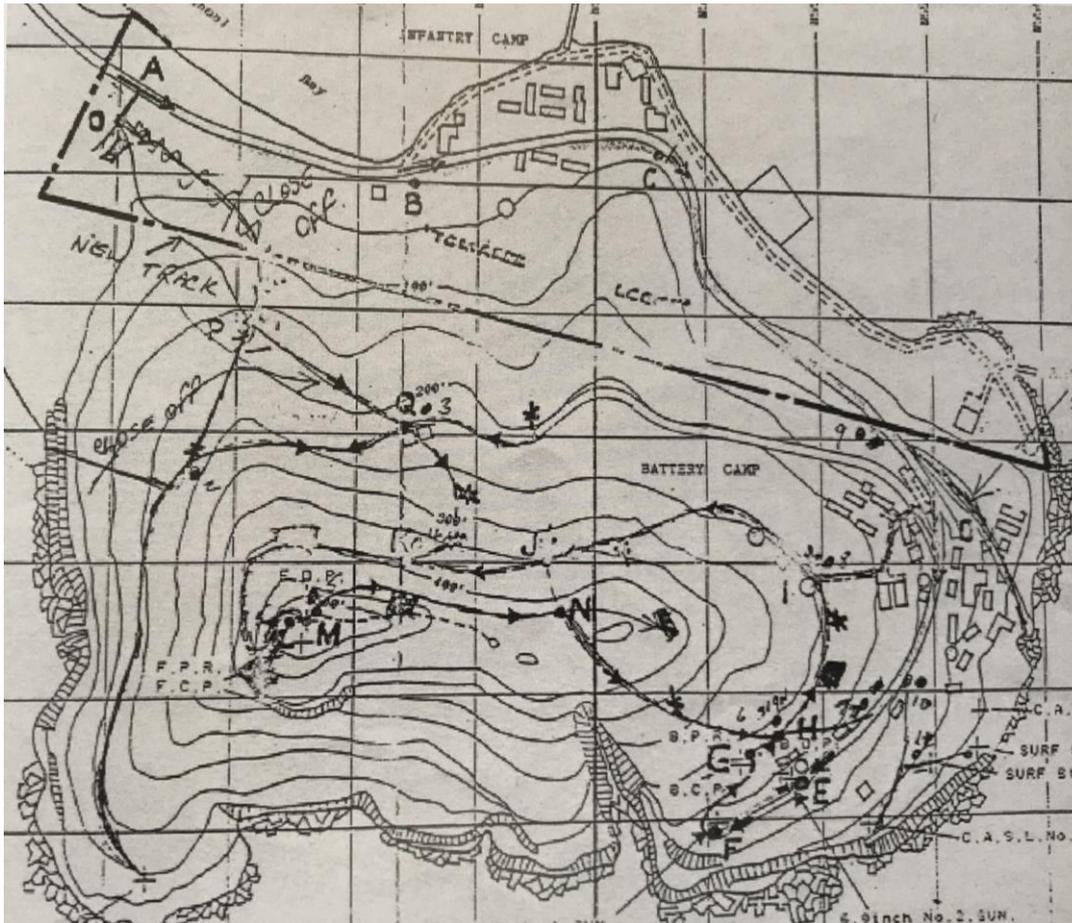
The comparison shows it is possible to identify buildings in the 1942 shot likely listed in the 1999 SHR work that remain in situ and visible in the 2021 shot. Out of interest, it seems clear from Navy annotations on a 1942 map (Figure 2), the Tomaree cluster of buildings were designated as the Infantry Camp (Russell 2016:43). Clearly, later infill has occurred in the central part of the frame, plainly showing the administration, recreation hall and swimming pool area as later additions. On the far right of frame, it is clear where there was one building in 1942, there are now two, although without inspection it is not possible to identify which



one is original. There are two weatherboard buildings upslope and above the central access road visible in the 1942 shot, which are obscured in the 2021 shot but which may belong to the original infantry camp layout.

Also worthy of note is the vegetation, with the most noticeable addition the Norfolk Island Pine which was not present in 1942 and is evidently a later planting. The slope behind is heavily vegetated in both.

Of particular note is the random rubble seawall along the foreshore, which is not present in the 1942 image, but appears in the 2021 version. The sea wall is also not indicated on the Navy Map (Figure 2) as it is for the Battery Camp, so one can only assume this is a later addition.



**Figure 2** Navy Map C1942. Note Infantry Camp notation at top of frame. Also note rocks in sea wall indicated far right of frame at Battery Camp (source: Russell,2016).

Visual analysis between the photographs allows consideration of how the site has evolved over time. Also useful in this context is mapping. Figure 3 overlays a current aerial view of Tomaree Lodge against a survey map drawn by Royal Australian Engineer Lt. Corporal G.G. McEvoy in 1943 (National Library of Australia). There is a clear discrepancy between the coastal shoreline of the drawn map and the modern aerial, highlighting the older map is not quite drawn to proportion. Despite this, the figure shows the relationship between Infantry Camp and Battery Camp plus the buildings, roadways and general layout.

Figure 4 presents a closer view of our Project Area. Once again, the coastal shoreline is not aligned. The map has been adjusted to show a correlation between built items noted on the 1943 plan against those buildings remaining on site in 2021.





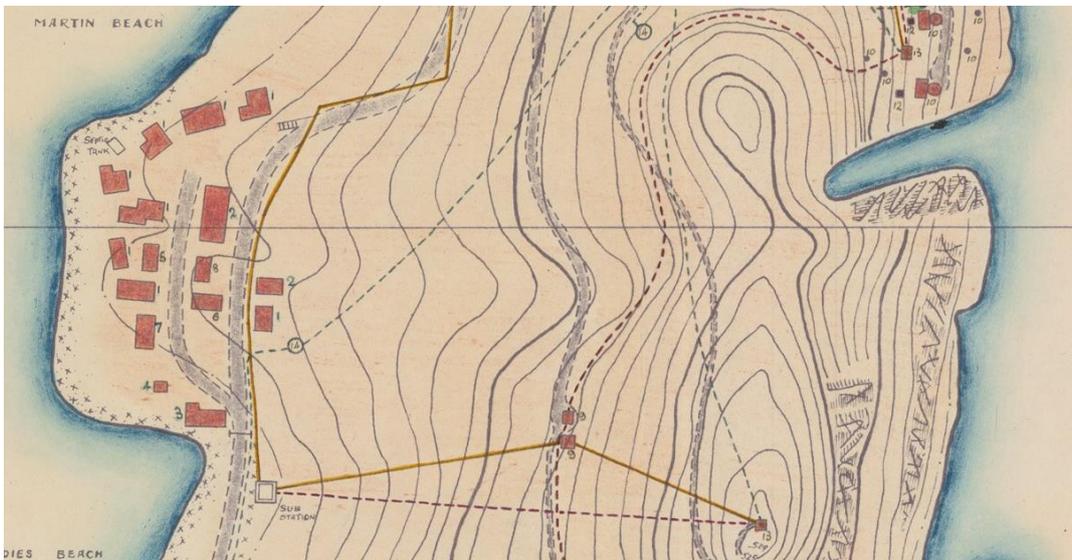
Disclaimer: While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the information shown on this map is up to date and accurate, no guarantee is given that the information portrayed is free from error or omission. Please verify the accuracy of all information prior to use.



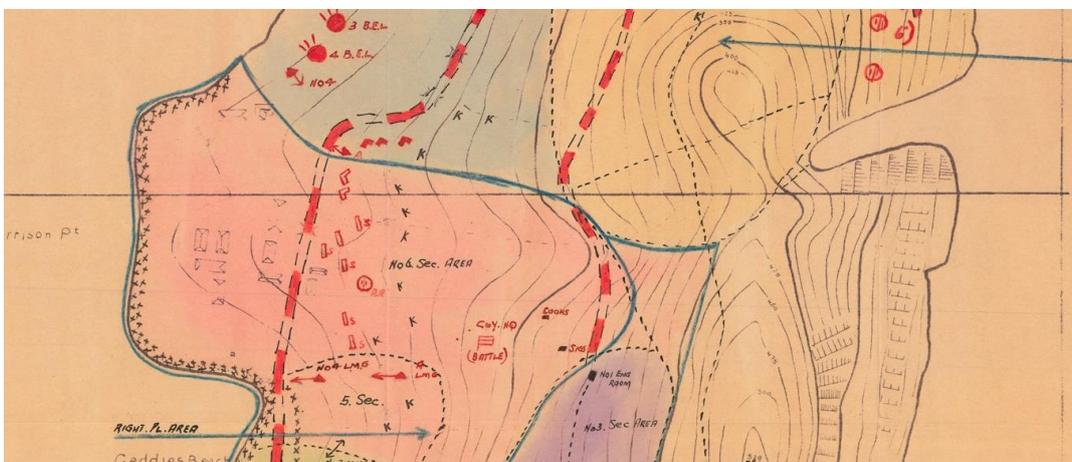
The 1943 plan shows 16 buildings, none of which are identified beyond the general description of “building”. The 1943 map has numbers adjacent to various structures but unfortunately, they are not explained on the accompanying Key. Quite clearly when viewing the 2020 aerial, some of the buildings have disappeared entirely, likely demolished during transition from a defence role to a hospital and caring role. Russell (2016:50) indicates the original Infantry Camp facility was very basic and between 1950 and 1955 it was “upgraded by nurses and patients”. Nevertheless, it appears at least seven buildings have been demolished since 1943, including all those on the upper slope. Given that the SHR listing notes 10 buildings, it would seem some of these buildings may actually relate to the period immediately after WW2 when the site was transferred to the Department of Health (1947) as a special mental health facility.

Figures 5 and 6 show the growth of the Tomaree Infantry Camp between 1942 and 1943. Figure 6 has faint building outlines of nine separate structures (just visible on 1942 map) against the 1943 map which shows the Infantry camp comprising 16 separate structures. This aligns with comment by (Armstrong 1996:74) stating that defence installations all around Port Stephens grew rapidly between 1942 and 1943 with camps, depots and services either being initiated or extended. Shore camps were built at Nelson Bay, Anna Bay, Tomaree Head, Fly Point, Little Beach and Shoal Bay.

**Figure 5 1943 Infantry camp layout**



**Figure 6 June 1942 close protection plan showing faint infantry camp layout**





Despite the mapping and visual analysis, it is possible only to verify perhaps five of the ten buildings listed on the SHR. These confirmed buildings are those closest to the shoreline on the lower side of the roadway. One positive identification is possible from the roof outline, with the balance requiring onsite investigation to confirm one way or the other.



**Plate 6 Proximity of buildings to shoreline. This group may originate from WW2.**

It is reasonable to conclude, that demolition and redevelopment of the Tomaree Lodge site to make it more comfortable and useful as a mental health facility during the 1950's likely reused building elements in other locations and on newer buildings or additions. For example, the current Recreation Hall shows clear signs of adaptive reuse, but, certain elements almost certainly date to WW2 period. Plate 7 shows a two-inch steel water pipe handrail connecting to the side of the building leading up to the roadway. Where there was once a doorway is now covered over with lattice work. The verandah uprights of poured cast concrete supporting the later skillion roof addition is also likely to date to WW2 evidenced by the highly unusual rafter construction visible on the roof underside, highlighting perhaps a preference for WW2 construction techniques to be fast and rudimentary, using basic materials.



**Plate 7 Recreation Hall modified**



**Plate 8 Poured cast concrete column with three rafters triangulated and bolted into place**

There is a continuous mix of elements ranging from WW2 through to the present at Tomaree Lodge. Some like the Administration building clearly do not form part of the SHR or were meant to, others such as the Recreation Hall are not so clear cut. Nevertheless, the brief visual inspection of the site confirmed all the buildings have been modified in some way, ranging from installation of new metal roofing, later period brick piers supporting extensions, infill of underfloor sections where an additional basement level was possible, through to external utilities additions such as air conditioning pumps, drainage, general landscaping, walkways and decks.

Remaining highly legible is the setting and general amenity of the site. A small cluster of buildings perch upon uneven ground along the narrow foreshore, immediately behind which is heavily vegetated and very steep hill slope featuring stands of mature trees and variegated undergrowth. Because of this Tomaree Lodge and its setting is easily interpretable as a highly legible WW2 operational camp site.

#### 4.1 Documentary evidence

A number of reports and management plans have been completed for Tomaree Head. All those available at the time of writing explicitly excluded the Tomaree Lodge as part of their brief. Whilst useful as general background in terms of history and potentially WW2 operations, none have explored or assessed the physical built elements at Tomaree Lodge.

**Table 5 List of previous Reports and sources reviewed**

Name	Author	Main objective	Comment
Tomaree Head Conservation Management Plan Vol.1 and Vol2, 2002-2004	Eric Martin and Associates	Conserve historical features of the site owing to increasing use by tourists	CMP excludes Tomaree Lodge
Statement of Heritage Impact Tomaree Head 2020	NGH Environmental	SOHI for walking tracks, installation of picnic tables, carparks and related items	CMP excludes Tomaree Lodge



Name	Author	Main objective	Comment
Tomaree Headland, A History 1999	Cynthia Hunter	History of Tomaree headland locality	Useful as background and for research on Tomaree Lodge
Yacaaba and Tomaree, 1989	John Armstrong	History of Port Stephens	Useful as background and for research on Tomaree Lodge
Port Stephens Narrative, 2016	Kevin Russell	Discovery, history and development of Port Stephens and surrounds	Useful as background and for research on Tomaree Lodge

## 4.2 Analysis of documentary evidence

The documentary evidence is of limited use as none of the reviewed literature specifically deals with the Tomaree Lodge as necessary for this study. Table 6 above gives a brief outline of those consulted as part of this study and their predominant area of interest.

Perhaps more useful is that the body of literature illustrates the real potential for historic WW2 archaeological deposits to occur in and around Tomaree Lodge, especially that contained in the Tomaree Head CMP, 1999.

## 4.3 Archaeological evidence

Background research has revealed several areas where potential WW2 archaeological deposits are likely to occur. Figures 5,6 and 7 are extremely useful in identifying areas of high archaeological potential. What is interesting from Figure 7 (Eric Martin and Associates CMP, 1999) is that uses have been attributed to the buildings at Tomaree Lodge whilst used as an infantry camp. The group of 10 buildings has been divided into five Barrack Rooms, three Mess and Kitchen Rooms and two Recreation Rooms. The Key is somewhat blurred on this figure so it has been necessary to interpret the above information from it as best as possible.

Subsurface disturbance in areas near to Tomaree Lodge should be preceded by an archaeological assessment. By extension an archaeological zoning plan is a good way to capture these localities and allow for a reasonable buffer around the Tomaree Lodge to protect this archaeological heritage. It is therefore recommended an archaeological zoning plan be developed for the site.

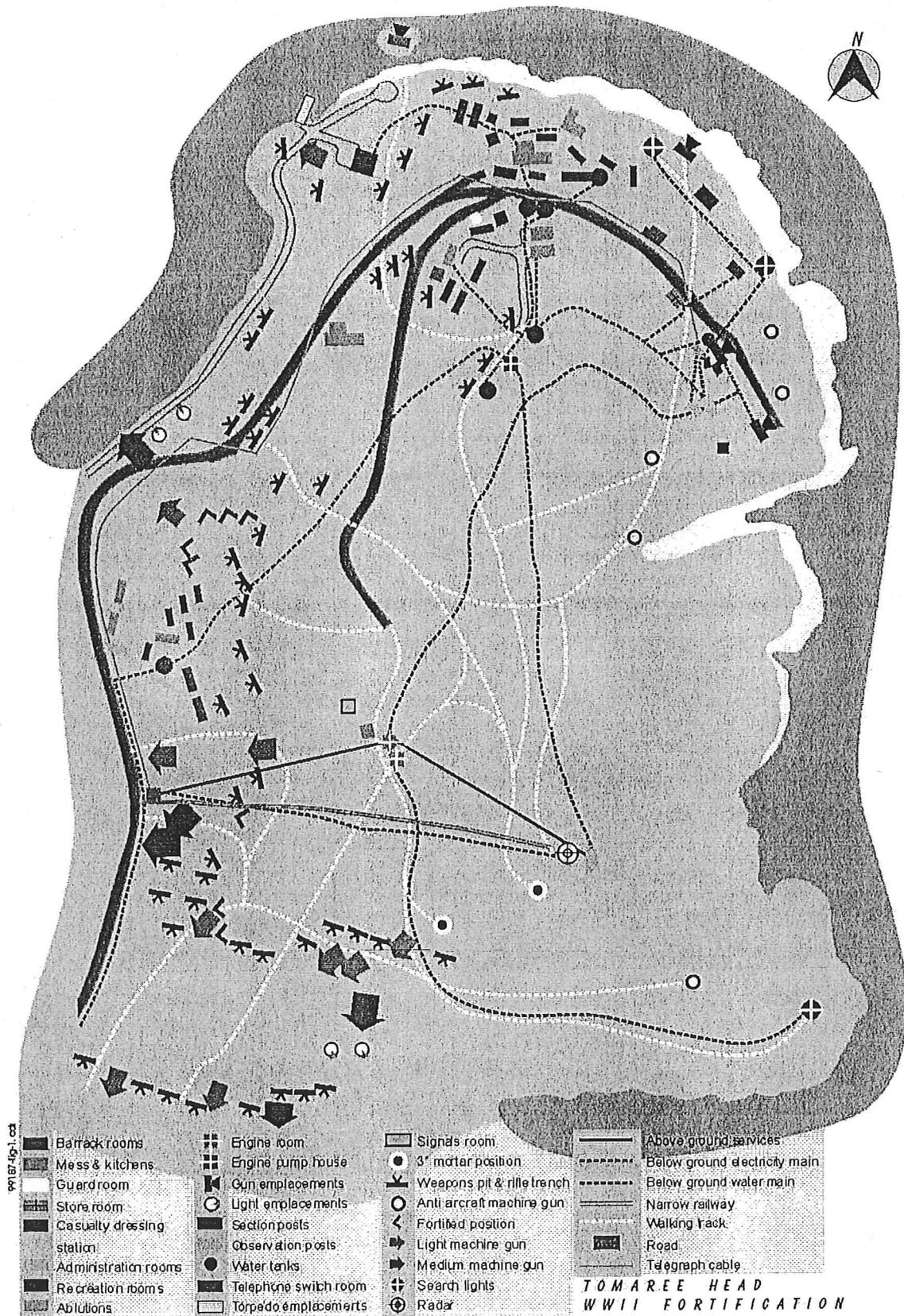


Figure 46 Tomaree Head WWII Fortification



## 5.0 Tomaree Lodge assessment

To understand various heritage elements that fit together to make up a SHR item it is useful to list the separate elements identified during a physical inspection of the property or site. The table below showing a building asset matrix is presented as an example due to Tomaree Lodge access not being granted. By following this procedure at each of the buildings present at Tomaree Lodge it is possible to understand the contribution each makes to the SHR.

**Table 6 Example of building asset matrix**

Building asset #1	Weatherboard WW2 accommodation hut					
Item component	Heritage value	Heritage significance	Description	moveable	stationary	recycle
Bathroom PC items	Aesthetic Historic Scientific social	low	Enamel cast basins and tapware	no		yes
Atrium	Aesthetic	medium	Lightly framed glassed in atrium skylight	no	yes	possible
Handrail	historic	medium	2" steel waterpipe used as handrail	no	yes	yes
Interior lining	Aesthetic Historic	High	Tongue and groove timber	no	yes	no
Architectural hardware	Aesthetic Historic	High	Window latches, door handles, light fittings	no	yes	yes
Formed Concrete poured on site	Historic	High	Steps, footings, piers and columns	no	yes	no

Even though Tomaree Lodge is already listed on the SHR, there is little specific information provided regarding individual elements. A useful system is to evaluate Tomaree Lodge for specific objects / items of significance by following a process and applying certain criteria. An example of a system often used is provided below.

### Process

Three tasks for each item;

- Analyse the object
- Understand its history and context
- Identify its value for communities

### Criteria

Four primary criteria



- Historic
- Aesthetic
- Scientific, research or technical
- Social or spiritual

### Five comparative criteria

- Provenance
- Representativeness
- Rarity
- Condition / completeness / integrity / intactness
- Interpretive potential

**Table 7 Heritage value v Significance example**

	Exceptional (10)	Considerable (5)	Some (2)	Little (1)		
Aesthetic						
Historic						
Scientific						
Social						
None						

By following the Burra Charter flowchart as shown in Table 2 of this report the user will be introduced to a scale of five levels of merit for the purposes of evaluation. These are: exceptional, considerable, some, little and none/negative. Thus, each value (eg aesthetic) can be given a merit grade (eg considerable). This process produces a relative sift of heritage significance across the portfolio with a numerical score given to each merit level.

In order to give greater emphasis to exceptional characteristics, a diminishing scale of “scores” is often used as thus: Exceptional = 10; Considerable = 5; Some = 2; Little = 1; Nil = 0.

Thus, a simple matrix can be produced that allows a comparative picture of the relative importance of differing properties to be prepared. Whilst a numeric score is produced, it is really a benchmark which allows a relative comparison to other properties to take place. Overall, a “map” of the heritage significance of the Tomaree Lodge site is produced.

Once the building asset matrix has been completed for all the built items at Tomaree Lodge including their individual elements and applied against the Burra Charter merit system we can collectively assess each building’s contribution to the SHR listing and perhaps identify those that possess a higher degree of significance against those lesser non-contributory items. It is these non-contributory items that do not impact the heritage significance of the place that could be modified or removed as part of redevelopment or adaptive reuse of the site.



## 6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The purpose of this assessment has been to identify what elements of the Tomaree Lodge site might relate to its WW2 operations as identified in the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and to assess the heritage listing in terms of management responsibilities and likely obligations. Given the imminent change of management and responsibility at Tomaree Lodge, Port Stephens Council (PSC) has recognised the importance of understanding the heritage significance of the site and the ramifications related to future operations.

Analysis of background information identified little useful information specifically directed at identifying specific elements at Tomaree Lodge, original use, modifications made and residual integrity.

Much work is required to bring the Tomaree Lodge site up to date in terms of future heritage management obligations. There is a need for an inventory of specific buildings that identifies their war time functionality and remaining historical elements contained within them pertaining to WW2. This may be captured within a site-specific CMP developed in accordance with the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter provides nationally accepted principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance and is a starting point for sites such as Tomaree Lodge where little to no recent heritage work has been done.

Whilst there is a broader CMP already produced by the the Office of Environment and Heritage (2002), it does not adequately cover the Tomaree Lodge (former Infantry Camp) locality. Unless eventual operation, management and responsibility for the Tomaree Lodge site fell to a single operator, it would not necessarily be advantageous for a CMP to be produced covering the whole headland.

Also necessary is an Archaeological Zoning Plan aimed at identifying which parts of the site are likely to contain archaeological deposits. As identified in the SHR documentation, the site retains high archaeological potential and high archaeological research value because there are relatively few mostly intact former World War Two army camps in NSW. All archaeological relics dating from the World War Two period on the site have the potential to contain information not available from other sources.

The following recommendations are made to assist Port Stephens Council understand future potential heritage works necessary and ultimately responsibilities associated with Tomaree Lodge management;

### Recommendation 1

Implement the full Burra Charter process as shown in Table 2 to assess and develop a CMP specific to Tomaree Lodge and surrounds.

### Recommendation 2

As a minimum, if the Burra Charter Process is not able to be implemented in the short term, an archaeological zoning plan must be developed for the site.

### Recommendation 3

In addition to Recommendation 2 and if the Burra Charter Process is not able to be implemented in the short term a comprehensive study is needed to differentiate between WW2 and later items present at the site and the evolution of uses pertaining to these. The study should include physical site access to all buildings, sites and landscape elements.



## 7.0 References

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*The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013*, (1979) Available online at: [https://australia.icomos.org/publications/burra-charter-practice-notes/#flow\\_chart](https://australia.icomos.org/publications/burra-charter-practice-notes/#flow_chart) cited January 2021

Eric Martin and Associates, 2002. *Tomaree Head, NSW, Conservation Management Plan*, prepared for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

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## Appendix I

## Tomaree Lodge SHR

# Tomaree Holiday Lodge

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Tomaree Holiday Lodge
<b>Other name/s:</b>	Tomaree Head, South Head, Psychiatric Hospital, Tomaree Head Army / RAAF Camp
<b>Type of item:</b>	Landscape
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Landscape - Cultural
<b>Category:</b>	Historic Landscape
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -32.7149077671 Long: 152.1840938890
<b>Primary address:</b>	Shoalhaven Road, Shoal Bay, NSW 2315
<b>Parish:</b>	Tomaree
<b>County:</b>	Gloucester
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Port Stephens
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council:</b>	Worimi

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOT	453		DP	705463

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Shoalhaven Road	Shoal Bay	Port Stephens	Tomaree	Gloucester	Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

Tomaree Lodge has heritage significance at a State level. It has historic significance because of its use as an Army Garrison Camp during the Second World War. The site is a physical demonstration of Port Stephen's important contribution to the Second World War, when it was developed as a military base by the joint Australian Army-United States Navy defence ventures in March 1942, following the appointment of General Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander of the South West Pacific sector.

The site has high archaeological potential and high archaeological research value. There are relatively few intact former World War Two army camps in NSW which have such high archaeological potential. Any archaeological relics dating from the World War Two period on the site have the potential to contain information not available from other sources. It also has strong interpretive values and research potential due to its relationship to other World War Two military sites in Port Stephens and Newcastle, including Fort Tomaree (and the

associated camps at Tomaree Head), Camp Gan Gan and HMAS Assault, also known as the Joint Overseas Operational Training School (JOOTS).

The site is a landmark on the foreshore of Shoal Bay at the entrance to Port Stephens. The site is rare as one of the few surviving, relatively intact Army garrison camps dating from the Second World War in NSW.

While Tomaree Lodge has some representative value as an example of a health facility in NSW for people with mental illness and developmental disability, it is unique in this group due to its earlier use as a World War Two Army Camp. There are relatively few intact former World War Two army camps in NSW. Tomaree Lodge is one of the few known surviving examples of this type of purpose-built accommodation for the military in the State.

**Date significance updated:** 03 Feb 09

*Note: The State Heritage Inventory provides information about heritage items listed by local and State government agencies. The State Heritage Inventory is continually being updated by local and State agencies as new information becomes available. Read the OEH **copyright and disclaimer**.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** NSW Government Architect / NSW Department of Public Works

**Builder/Maker:** NSW Department of Public Works for Commonwealth Government

**Construction years:** 1942-

**Physical description:** Tomaree Lodge is situated between Tomaree Head and Shoal Bay, at the southern entrance to Port Stephens. Tomaree Lodge comprises a range of predominantly single-storey weatherboard buildings on the western foreshore of the headland. These buildings are mostly ex-World War Two Australian Army garrison camp buildings. The Tomaree National Park (established in 1984) occupies the remainder of Tomaree Head.

DADHC land in the vicinity includes the ten Tomaree Lodge accommodation buildings as well as a number of administrative and amenity buildings, and 8.8 hectares of landscaped (terraced) land on the western side of the headland. Land held by DADHC in this area accommodates a range of structures including a swimming pool, work sheds, a fisheries laboratory, and at least two relics associated with Fort Tomaree, namely the surf battery and the footings for a torpedo tube. The sealed access road to the site terminates in a cul-de-sac with accommodation buildings to the west and administrative buildings to the east.

The landscape of the site is terraced, with random rubble retaining walls and features notable mature Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*).

The buildings on the site are mostly single-storey and the clustering of cottages used for accommodation provides a village atmosphere. A stone wall constructed by former residents runs along the foreshore of Shoal Bay.

The ten cottages, which collectively make up Tomaree Lodge, are single-storey weatherboard buildings on the western foreshore of the headland. They were designed and built in 1942 by the NSW Government Architect's Office / Department of Public Works on behalf of the Commonwealth Government for use as an Australian Army garrison camp during the Second World War. Typically, these buildings are timber framed and are clad with weatherboard; they tend to have corrugated metal gable roofs. Those built on the embankment have un-rendered or painted brick bases, or engaged brick piers. A number of the cottages have fixed awnings and some retain timber framed double-hung sash windows. Ramps to the buildings, often with timber balustrades provide equitable access to

the accommodation.

Internally the cottages typically have timber floors and internal gyprock lining. Building 8 has caneite ceilings, wood grained panelling and exposed trusses. **Previously, most of these buildings had internal lining containing asbestos which has been replaced.** Internally Building 4 seems to retain the most intact room layout, although the doors have been extended.

Various alterations to the cottages have taken place; the footprint of the cottages extended, alterations made to the roofs or modifications to doors, windows and other fittings. Various modifications have been made to both the site and buildings to allow equitable access, including installation of ramps and widening of doors. Services have been updated and verandahs have sometimes been enclosed and original windows replaced with aluminium framed glazing. Some of the cottages elevated on brick piers have had brick enclosures built below.

The site contains a range of distinctive features relating to its earlier uses including fortifications and installations, roads, gun placements, and a random rubble walled battery. On the headland's rock platform are random rubble terracing, drains, a roadway and sea walls.

Tomaree Lodge adjoins the Tomaree National Park. The native vegetation of the Tomaree Peninsula is predominantly woodland with a number of identified rare and/or threatened plant species local to this area. The DECC / National Parks and Wildlife Service considers the natural areas have a high conservation value.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:**

Tomaree Lodge comprises a range of buildings dating from its use as an army garrison during the First World War. The buildings are generally in good condition.

The DADHC lands surrounding Tomaree Lodge have high archaeological potential, high archaeological research value and high heritage significance. There are likely to be archaeological remains of the Fort Tomaree Battery Camp, established on the headland in WWII. The camp was adjacent to the torpedo tubes and gun emplacement at the end of the headland and the remains would partly extend into the national park. Evidence may include building footings, artefact deposits, underground services and evidence of changes to the landscape including terracing. There may also be concrete bases and fixtures from searchlight towers, gun platforms and other defence works.

The slope up behind the former Infantry Camp (now Tomaree Lodge) is also likely to contain archaeological evidence associated with the camp and Tomaree Battery, similar to that described above for the Battery Camp. Although the area has been heavily disturbed by WWII activity, given its location it is possible there may be remnant evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the area.

One of the conservation strategies in the endorsed Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared for Tomaree Head National Park in 1999 was the systematic site recording and assessment by a qualified Historical Archaeologist for the whole site. A detailed archaeological assessment of this site is recommended in conjunction with the adjoining national park lands.

**Date condition updated:** 03 Sep 08

**Modifications and dates:**

The original ex-World War Two Australian Army garrison camp at Tomaree Head was modified for use as a hospital in the 1950s. The site has been added to over the second half of the twentieth century to accommodate changing hospital needs, as outlined below.

Modifications to the site have included:

1950-1955 (by staff and DPWS) - army huts on hill demolished, rebuilt in modernised form

to provide additional accommodation. New recreation hall built from salvaged material. Garages workshops and other building similarly built. Terracing, gardens, drainage, roads, rock work on original pool, land forming to Zenith Beach.

1950-55 (DPWS) - major construction work including renovations, conversions of huts to staff cottages, wharf, swimming pools.

1953-55 - 2 tennis courts, concrete cricket pitch.

1965 - new swimming pool and facilities.

1966 - administration building, new kitchens, dining room and balconies.

1990s - land transferred to NPWS as part of Tomaree Head National Park.

**Further information:**

Although the endorsed Conservation Management Plan for Tomaree Head (1999) is for the adjacent headland, the policies recommend the incorporation of the Tomaree Holiday Lodge and the Tomaree Head National Park on the headland into a single listing sheet.

**Current use:**

Large Residential Centre

**Former use:**

Aboriginal land, WW2 Military camp; Hospital

## History

**Historical notes:**

Tomaree Headland is situated at the southern entrance to Port Stephens. Tomaree Lodge is located in a range of ten predominantly single-storey weatherboard ex-World War Two Australian Army garrison camp buildings on the western foreshore of the headland.

Tomaree National Park occupies the remainder of land on Tomaree Head. DADHC land in this vicinity includes the ten buildings used for accommodation (c1941), the Recreation Hall, the Administration Block (c1980s) and staff cottages, as well as 8.8 hectares of terraced and landscaped land on the western side of the headland. DADHC-owned land in the vicinity accommodates a range of structures including a swimming pool, work sheds, a fisheries laboratory, and at least two relics associated with Fort Tomaree, namely the surf battery and the footings for a torpedo tube.

The Port Stephens area, including Tomaree Head, is part of land occupied by the Worimi Aboriginal language group. Captain Cook noted Tomaree Head in 1770 when he was travelling along the NSW coast. Following European settlement to the east coast of NSW from 1788, Port Stephens's rich resources were harvested; fishing and cedar getting were the main industries in the early nineteenth century. Port Stephens was occupied by the Australian Agricultural Company from 1824. Point Stephens lighthouse was erected in 1864 to provide safe entrance to Port Stephens.

Under the Crown Lands Alienation Act 1861, Tomaree Head(land) was declared a reserve; it was used for recreational purposes and occasional squatting from the 1860s until the 1930s.

In 1932, Alfred Ernest Dickenson made an application for a special lease of Tomaree Head to graze goats. Dickenson 's lease was withdrawn in 1947, with the site having been used for health purposes since this time. In the interim, however, Tomaree Head played an important role in the defence of Australia during the Second World War.

In March 1942, General Douglas MacArthur was appointed the supreme commander of the South West Pacific sector, 'with authority over all allied naval, land and air forces in the theatre '. This appointment effectively meant that MacArthur had control of the Australian forces (ADB, Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964: <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150186b.htm>). At this time, Port Stephens, including Tomaree Head, was developed as a World War Two military base by a joint Australian Army-United States Navy defence venture.

Port Stephens was a vital part of the Australian coastal defence system during the Second World War, and became the focus of first Australian-United States combined training operations for the South-West Pacific sector. This included Camp Gan Gan (located around 4kms from Nelson Bay), Fort Tomaree (and the associated camps at Tomaree Head) and HMAS Assault on St Nazaire's Road, also known as the Joint Overseas Operational Training School (JOOTS), which became Nelson's Bay Migrant Hostel in the post-war period (NAA, HMAS Assault - Port Stephens 1953, Series number A5799, Control symbol 144/1953).

Plans for two camps on Tomaree Head, to service the Fort Tomaree defence installations as part of the military occupation at Port Stephens, were prepared in 1941 by the NSW Government Architect / Department of Public Works. It is likely that these buildings were constructed by the NSW Department of Public Works on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, which was standard practice at this time due to labour shortages caused by the war. These 1941 plans of Tomaree Head show that most of the buildings dating from this time on the Tomaree Lodge site have been retained in-situ (Department of Commerce Plan Room MISC56/44 & MISC56/53).

The surf battery within DADHC-owned land at Tomaree Head, consisting of two Quick Firing 3 pounder Hoskiss Mark 1 guns, was intended for close defence of the entrance to Port Stephens and the approaches to Shoal Bay: 'After investigation, it was later decided to install land based torpedo tubes on the north west side of Tomaree Head. A special launching platform was constructed on the shoreline some 50m to the west of No. 2 Gun (3 pounder) of Surf Section. Support facilities including accommodation were provided for the naval personnel.' (WW2 Fortification Study, part 10, pp 1-3.).

Two years after the end of the Second World War, in 1947, the Commonwealth Defence Department transferred the former military camp at Tomaree Head to the Department of Public Health, for use as a convalescent hospital for patients from State hospitals. An undated contour plan of the Tomaree Convalescent Home (c1947-50) shows two groups of buildings on Tomaree Head at this time. The site of Tomaree Lodge is referred to on this plan as Lower Tomaree. At this time, it contained sixteen buildings numbered 34 to 52. It appears that these buildings had been used as the Garrison Camp for the C Company of the 20 Australian Garrison (Army) from 1942 until the close of the Second World War. This plan also shows that Upper Tomaree, located further to the south around Tomaree Head, was the site of the former Battery Camp and RAAF Camp during the war. The buildings at Upper Tomaree were demolished, and the site is now within the Tomaree National Park (Department of Commerce Plan Room MISC56/19)

When the former Military Camp had been acquired by the NSW Government, it reportedly had been 'an abandoned army camp, which seemed to be suitable for a convalescent hostel, but which had few amenities and little satisfactory accommodation. The first six patients arrived in June, 1947.' (Health in NSW Vol 6 No 1 February 1965).

In 1949, the Annual Report for the Inspector General of Mental Hospitals reported that 'the establishment of a Convalescent Hostel for mental patients by the adaption of an ex-army camp situated at the southern headland at Port Stephens is more half completed so far as the accommodation required for male patients is concerned. Future development of the Hostel will provide for females as well as male patients, and in the meantime the accommodation for about fifty patients will be put into use.' (Report of the Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals for the year ended 1949).

Works at Tomaree continued into the 1950s, following the initiation of a 'five-year plan of general development' in 1950. This plan involved the demolition of 'the old army huts high on the hill' (presumably this is in reference to the camp at Upper Tomaree), with some 're-built in modernised form on the present site to provide additional accommodation for the increasing number of patients enjoying the hostel 's peaceful surroundings. The new recreation hall was built from material salvaged with great ingenuity from the old army installations. Garages, workshops and other outbuildings were also erected'. (Health in NSW Vol 6 No 1 February 1965).

By 1952, the number of patients at the Tomaree Holiday Lodge increased to 118, with a staff of eleven. In 1953-55 'two tennis courts and a concrete cricket pitch were laid in the lawn area in the entrance to the grounds'.

In 1960 a holiday scheme was introduced whereby patients from other hospitals were given a two-week holiday at Tomaree before returning to their permanent accommodation; by 1962, there were approximately 40 holiday beds available. During this time, there was a permanent population of around forty residents who carried out maintenance works on the buildings and grounds. In 1965, it was reported that Tomaree Holiday Lodge was 'used by the Health Department to provide holiday accommodation for long-stay patients from metropolitan and country psychiatric hospitals', known as Schedule 5 Hospitals. In this year, it was reported that 'a new fresh water, white tile, swimming pool equipped with dressing and toilet facilities' was under construction.' (Health in NSW Vol 6 No 1 February 1965).

Tomaree National Park, comprising 2266 hectares, was gazetted in 1984. The hospital reserve was divided and the eastern portion of it was added to the park. In 1985, the practice of providing 'holiday beds' was suspended when permanent residents were relocated to Tomaree Lodge from the Stockton and Kanangra Centres.

In 1989 the State Government proposed to sell Tomaree Lodge, but the decision was retracted following fierce local opposition. In 1992, Tomaree Lodge was in the ownership of the Department of Health and was included in the Department's s170 Heritage and Conservation Register in this year. By this time, the centre no longer provided respite holiday care for patients at mental hospitals in NSW, but was providing long-term accommodation for people with developmental disabilities.

Tomaree Lodge has been operated by DADHC as a Large Residential Centre since 2001, providing accommodation for around 45-50 residents. Today, Tomaree Lodge occupies 8.8 hectares of land on the foreshores of Shoal Bay. Site plans dated to 1942 and 1959 show that Tomaree Lodge has changed little since it was erected in 1942; as at 2008, the buildings on the site are in roughly the same location and configuration as they were in these years (Department of Commerce Plan Room MISC56/21).

In 2018 the state government announced almost \$7m to extend and link parts of the Tomaree Coastal Walk at Port Stephens. The project will deliver enhanced visitor experiences for the iconic Tomaree Headland including improved access, walking tracks, visitor amenity and interpretation, creation of a signature loop walking track and establishment of a coastal walking connection from Birubi Point to Tomaree Headland utilising existing trails (OEH CE News, 9/6/2018).

## Historic themes

<b>Australian theme (abbrev)</b>	<b>New South Wales theme</b>	<b>Local theme</b>
1. Environment-Tracing the evolution of a continent's special environments	Environment - naturally evolved-Activities associated with the physical surroundings that support human life and influence or shape human cultures.	(none)-
1. Environment-Tracing the evolution of a continent's special environments	Environment - naturally evolved-Activities associated with the physical surroundings that support human life and influence or shape human cultures.	Other open space-
2. Peopling-Peopling the continent	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures-Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and	Worimi nation - places of contact-

	practices, past and present.	
2. Peopling-Peopling the continent	Ethnic influences-Activities associated with common cultural traditions and peoples of shared descent, and with exchanges between such traditions and peoples.	American military defence cooperation sites-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture-Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes, can include aquaculture	Private farming-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape-Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	Significant Places How are significant places marked in the landscape by, or for, different groups-Monuments and Sites
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape-Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	(none)-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape-Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	Landscapes and countryside of rural charm-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Events-Activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences	Developing local landmarks-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Health-Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	Caring for the sick in hospitals-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Health-Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	(none)-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Health-Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	Operating mental health facilities-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Health-Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	Operating convalescent and rehabilitation hospitals-

3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Pastoralism-Activities associated with the breeding, raising, processing and distribution of livestock for human use	Agisting and fattening stock for slaughter-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure-Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Administering and alienating Crown lands-
7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	(none)-
7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Involvement with the Second World War-
7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Defending the homeland-
7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Naval establishment or involvement-
7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Army housing-
7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Military barracks accommodation-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	State government-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Federal Government-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - administration of land-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs	Developing roles for government - parks and open spaces-

	- includes both principled and corrupt activities.	
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - public land administration-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - conserving cultural and natural heritage-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - providing health care facilities-
7. Governing-Governing	Welfare-Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	Hospital/nursing home phase-
7. Governing-Governing	Welfare-Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	(none)-
7. Governing-Governing	Welfare-Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	Sanatoria-
7. Governing-Governing	Welfare-Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	Welfare-Includes charitable and self-help institutions.
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Playing tennis-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Tourism-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Playing cricket-
8.	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and	Going swimming-

Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	relaxation	
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Gathering at landmark places to socialise-
9. Phases of Life-Marking the phases of life	Persons-Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	Associations with the NSW Government Architect's Office-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

Tomaree Lodge has State significance because of its prior use as an Army Garrison Camp during the Second World War. The site is a physical demonstration of Port Stephen's important contribution to the Second World War, when it was developed as a military base by the joint Australian Army-United States Navy defence ventures in March 1942, following the appointment of General Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander of the South West Pacific sector.

### SHR Criteria c)

[Aesthetic significance]

Tomaree Lodge has aesthetic significance at a Local level, due to its landmark qualities on the foreshore of Shoal Bay at the entrance to Port Stephens.

### SHR Criteria d)

[Social significance]

The social significance of the Tomaree Lodge has not been assessed. However, it is likely that it has strong association with past and present residents and staff. Tomaree Lodge has been, and continues to be, home to many of these people who have spent extended periods of their life there. The significance of Tomaree Lodge to the local community was clearly established when there was vocal public opposition to its sale in 1989.

### SHR Criteria e)

[Research potential]

Tomaree Lodge has technical significance at a State level because the land surrounding it has high archaeological potential and high archaeological research value related to its use during World War Two. There are relatively few intact former World War Two army camps in NSW which have such high archaeological potential. Any archaeological relics dating from the World War Two period on the site have the potential to contain information not available from other sources.

Tomaree Lodge has strong interpretive values and research potential due to its relationship to other World War Two military sites in Port Stephens and Newcastle, including Fort Tomaree (and the associated camps at Tomaree Head), Camp Gan Gan and HMAS Assault, also known as the Joint Overseas Operational Training School (JOOTS).

The nine LRCs owned or managed by DADHC (as at January 2009), including the Tomaree Centre, have technical / research significance at a State Level for their potential to explain the ways that residential health facilities for people with mental illness and disabilities in NSW were designed, built and operated, reflecting the changing attitudes and philosophies of care over the twentieth century.

### SHR Criteria f)

[Rarity]

Tomaree Lodge has rarity value at a State level as one of the few surviving, relatively intact Army garrison camps dating from the Second World War in NSW. While Tomaree Lodge has some representative value as an example of a health facility in NSW for people with mental illness and developmental disability, it is unique in this group due to its earlier use as a World War Two Army Camp.

### Integrity/Intactness:

Tomaree Lodge is a functioning Large Residential Centre which means that most of the buildings on the site are in good working order. Even though many buildings have undergone alterations and additions, the original form of the buildings is generally discernible.

Tomaree Lodge is one of the few known surviving examples of this type of purpose-built accommodation for the military in the State. There are relatively few intact former World War Two army camps in NSW.

**Assessment criteria:**

Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

**Recommended management:**

The DADHC HAMS (January 2007) identified that a Conservation Management Plan and Statement of Significance for Tomaree Lodge should be completed by June 2008.

The endorsed Conservation Management Plan for Tomaree Head (1999) recommends the incorporation of Tomaree Holiday Lodge and Tomaree Head National Park into a single listing sheet.

The s170 HCR for Department of Health (1992) recommended the identification of Aboriginal archaeological sites at Tomaree Lodge through further investigation and the preparation of an archaeological management strategy. It also recommended systematic site recording and assessment by a qualified historical archaeologist for the whole site, to identify and record the archaeology relating to the WW2 military phase.

**Recommendations**

Management Category	Description	Date Updated
Recommended Management	Produce a Conservation Management Plan (CMP)	
Recommended Management	Prepare a maintenance schedule or guidelines	
Recommended Management	Carry out interpretation, promotion and/or education	

**Procedures /Exemptions**

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
21(1) (b)	Conservation Plan submitted for endorsement	Tomaree Head CMP	Endorsed CMP is for adjacent headland, but policies recommend incorporation of this site and the headland into a single SHR listing.	Jun 5 2002
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p>	Sep 5 2008

FRANK SARTOR  
Minister for Planning  
Sydney, 11 July 2008

To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.

 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00835	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register		04/5/22/2000	01 Feb 92		

## Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Department of Health - s170 Register	1992	04/5/22/20	Schwager, Brooks & Partners Pty Ltd		Yes

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		1965	The Tomaree Holiday Lodge	
Written	Armstrong, John	1996	Yacaaba and Tomaree: a history of Port Stephens	
Written	Graham Brooks and Associates	2006	Tomaree Centre: 4 Shoal Bay Road, Shoal Bay: Due Diligence Assessment (Draft)	
Written	Graham Brooks and Associates	2006	Tomaree Centre: Due Diligence Assessment (Draft)	
Written	Gutteridge Haskins and Davies		Tomaree Holiday Lodge Report	

Writ ten	Prowd, Eric N	1988	HMAS Assault Combined Operations Port Stephens NSW	
Writ ten	Smith, Michael and Graeme Steinbeck	1998	The Guns of Tomaree	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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**Name:** Heritage Office

**Database number:** 5012303

**File number:** H00/00295

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